ANNALS

OF

WOODSIDE AND NEWHILLS

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WOODSIDE AND NEWHILLS.

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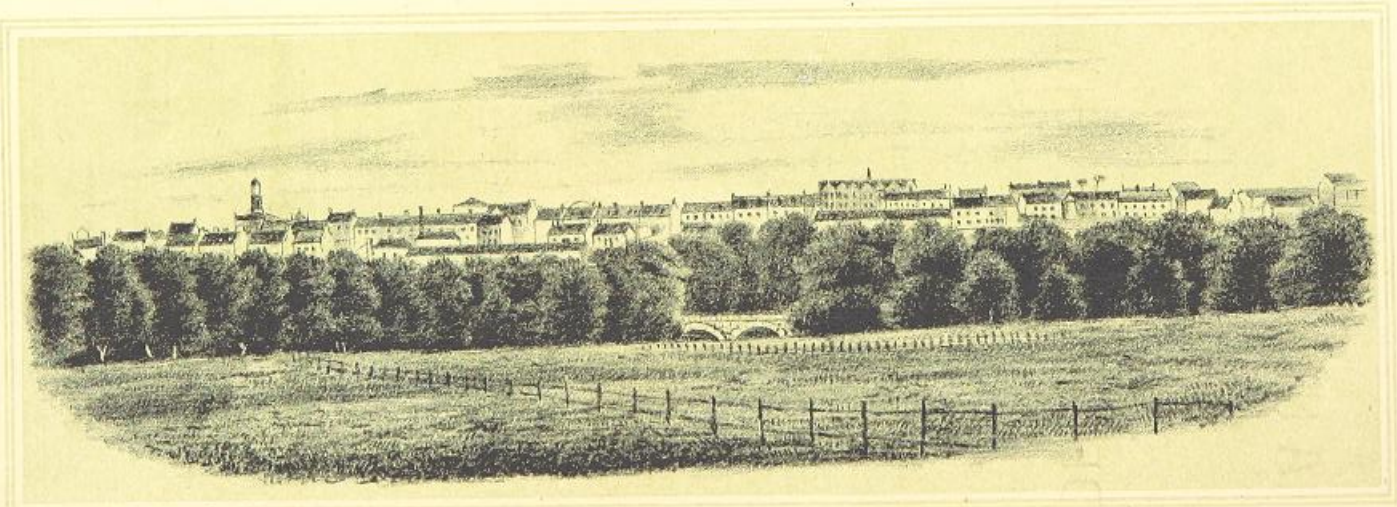

BURGH OF WOODSIDE NEAR ABERDEEN.

ANNALS

OF

WOODSIDE AND NEWHILLS:

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL.

BY

PATRICK MORGAN.

ABERDEEN:

DAVID WYLLIE AND SON.

1886.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

SIR JOHN ANDERSON, KT.,

LL.D., C.E., F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E., F.S.A.,

OFFICER OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR, FRANCE;

KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF FRANZ JOSEPH,

AUSTRIA;

A DISTINGUISHED NATIVE

AND MUNIFICENT BENEFACTOR OF THE BURGH

OF WOODSIDE;

IN RECOGNITION OF

HIS EMINENT ABILITIES AND ESTIMABLE CHARACTER,

AND OF A PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP

EXTENDING OVER MANY YEARS,

These Annals

ARE DEDICATED WITH MUCH RESPECT BY

PATRICK MORGAN.

ABERDEEN, *May*, 1886.

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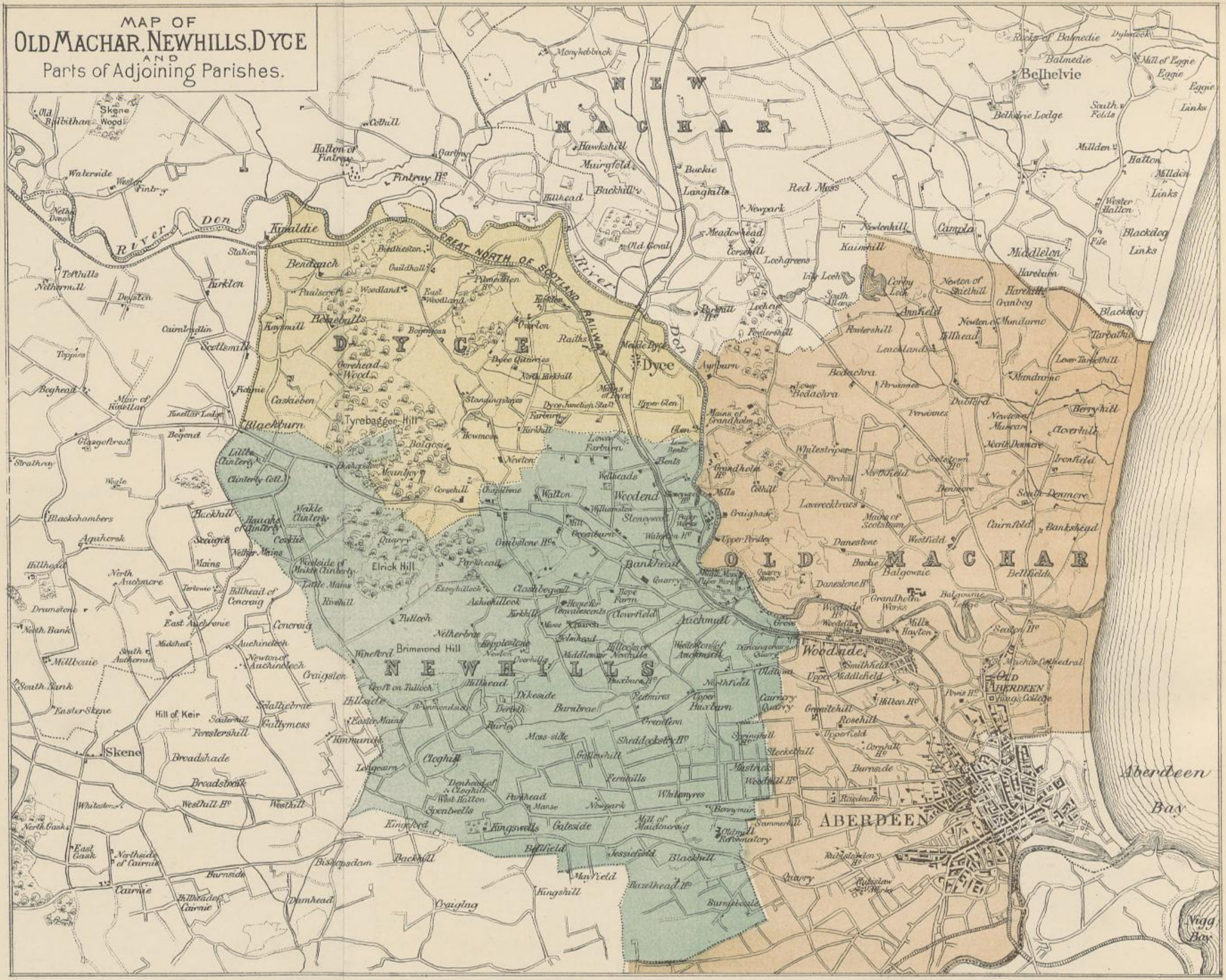
MAP OF OLD MACHAR, NEWHILLS, DYCE AND Parts of Adjoining Parishes.



PREFACE.

ABOUT three years ago the author put in print, for private circulation, a little *brochure* in verse entitled "Woodside Worthies." At that time his mind was led to dwell much on the past of Woodside, and he felt that the task of writing the earlier history of the Burgh would be to him a congenial undertaking; and, believing that he had exceptional opportunities for making researches into old records connected with the place, aided by personal recollections extending over a considerable period, he set about collecting materials. As the work proceeded, however, he found that justice could not be done to the subject within the limits originally contemplated; and, with a view to make the volume more complete and comprehensive, he subsequently resolved to extend his inquiries to the Parish of Newhills.

Perhaps a few of the lengthy quotations from charters, and advertisements of early date relating to local matters, might have been, with some advantage, considerably abridged; but, at the risk of being tedious, the plan has generally been preferred of giving these nearly verbatim, because of their conveying history more completely in that form.

The difficulty the author experienced in procuring reliable information upon some of the subjects treated in this volume, shows the necessity that exists for rescuing from oblivion the records and memorials of the earlier

events connected with the locality. Every year's delay increases the labour of research, and tends to obliterate what we should desire to remember and preserve of the past, which might furnish to us examples of wisdom and virtue for our imitation, or of folly and vice which it would be well to avoid.

The author is sensible that his narrative is somewhat fragmentary and interrupted, and he should have hesitated in bringing these Annals before the public unless he had entertained the hope that the inhabitants of Woodside and Newhills, and perhaps others, would readily overlook any defect, in consideration of the pleasure that may be derived from their perusal.

At the outset of this undertaking the author was encouraged and assisted by the late John Smith, Esq., President of the Society of Advocates, who supplied him with valuable papers relating to Woodside.

The writer also acknowledges his indebtedness to Francis Edmond, Esq., LL.D., James Murray Garden, Esq., Messrs. Robertson & Lumsden, Messrs. Murray and M'Combie, Messrs. James & George Collie, and Harvey Hall, Esq., Advocates, who have afforded him facilities for compiling this volume. To these, as well as to other friends who have aided him, he offers his warmest thanks.

ABERDEEN, *May*, 1886.

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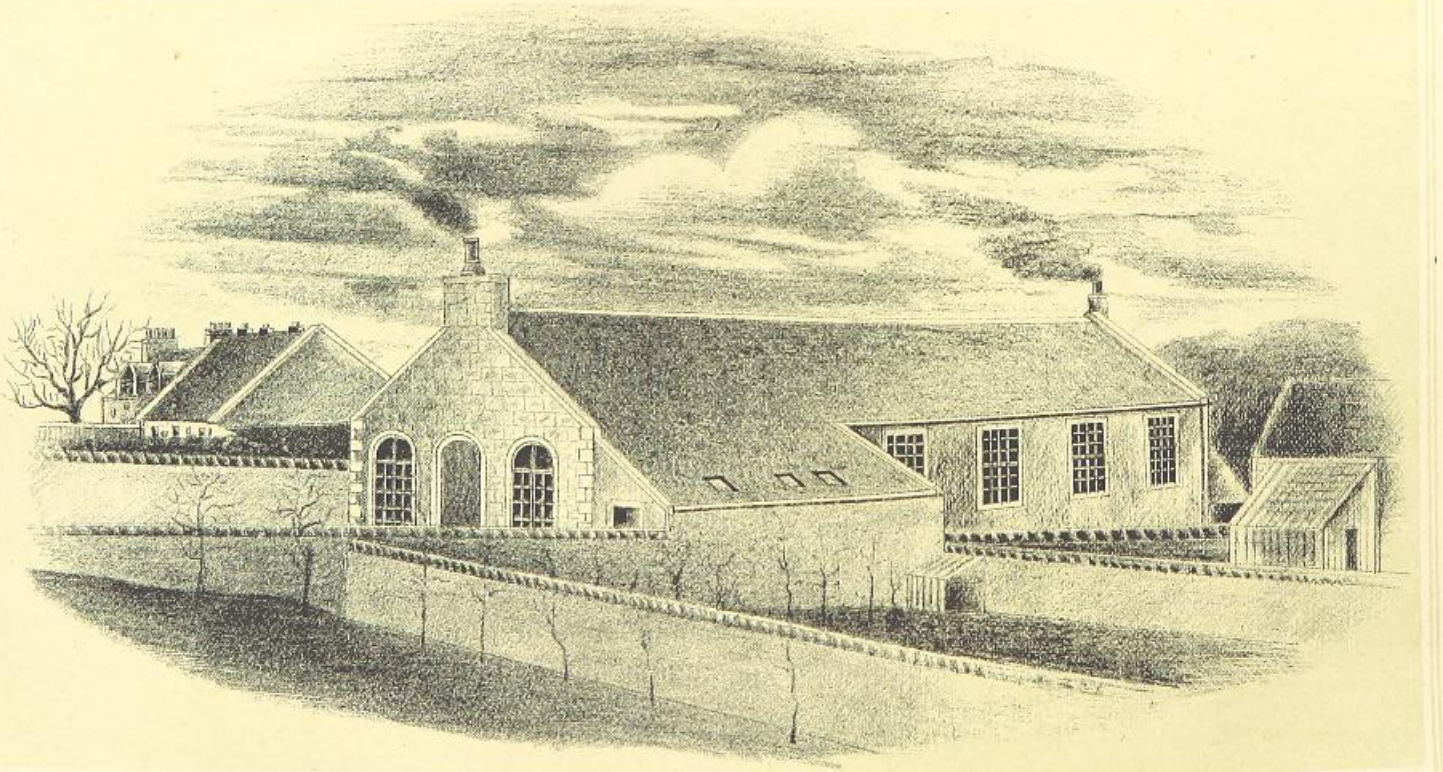

THE WOODSIDE SCHOOL,
of which Mr Alexr Michie was the First Teacher.
(NOW THE BURGH HALL)

ANNALS

OF

WOODSIDE AND NEWHILLS.

The Burgh of Woodside.

ANY description of the Burgh of Woodside as it was two hundred years ago, would of necessity be an effort of the imagination, aided only by a few facts which we have on record. At that date there would be a few patches of ground here and there under cultivation ; the population would not be much over fifty or sixty persons, mostly connected with agricultural pursuits and salmon fishing on the river Don.

For several centuries fishing by cruives was carried on a little below where the Cruive Burn, now called Scatter Burn, enters the river Don ; and from this industry the place derived its name of the LANDS OF CRUIVES ; and, after these had been removed or superseded, the name was changed to OLD CRUIVES. The older name, SMITHY-HAUGH, was most likely derived from some smithy at one time about the haugh. The lower part of Middlefield once formed a portion of the estate of Old Cruives, and the upper part, when purchased by Thomas Mosman in the year 1754, was in the Commonty of Aberdeen.

About the middle of last century Old Cruives was called WOODSIDE, perhaps by reason of the abundance of wood on the estate, the lands on the west side of the road being comparatively bare and without trees. The Burgh

of Woodside has long been known by the name PRINTFIELD, derived from the calico-printing carried on at an early date at Woodside Works. The estate of Middlefield is enclosed by Woodside, Auchmull, Northfield, and Hilton ; and hence, perhaps, the name *Middle*-field. The late Rev. Mr. Rust, of Slains, in his book, "Druidism Exhumed," very ingeniously tries to show that the name COTTON is from the Druids. Referring to the lower part of Cotton, he says:—"There was anciently erected in the valley another stone, removed many years ago, but within the memory of the last generation, called *Caomhan-teine*, or *Caomh-teine*, contracted into Cotton, the name of the surrounding field or estate, and now of a village, meaning the *Archdruid's fire*." We do not presume to say whether this derivation is right or wrong, but we venture to think that "Cotton" is a slight reduction of Cot-town, quite a common name in Scotland.

About the middle of last century the lower portion of the burgh was called TANFIELD, probably from the circumstance that James Raitt, the resident proprietor at that date, was a *tanner* in Aberdeen. The name GORDON'S MILLS is no doubt derived from some waulk mill or meal mill on the lower part of the Estate of Cotton, which estate, some hundreds of years ago, belonged to a family of the name of GORDON, who were connected with the Gordons of Cluny, as will be seen in the following pages.

There is not much of a political history of Woodside to record, although there have been many ardent politicians resident there, who were in the forefront in considering and advocating all questions that had for their aim the welfare and prosperity of the country at large. The great agitation for Burgh Reform in Scotland towards the end of last century may be said to have had its rise in Woodside in the person of Patrick Barron, the laird of the estate, who was one of its first and chief promoters. He was President of the Aberdeen Burgh Reform Association in 1784, and, as representing the City of Aberdeen, took a very

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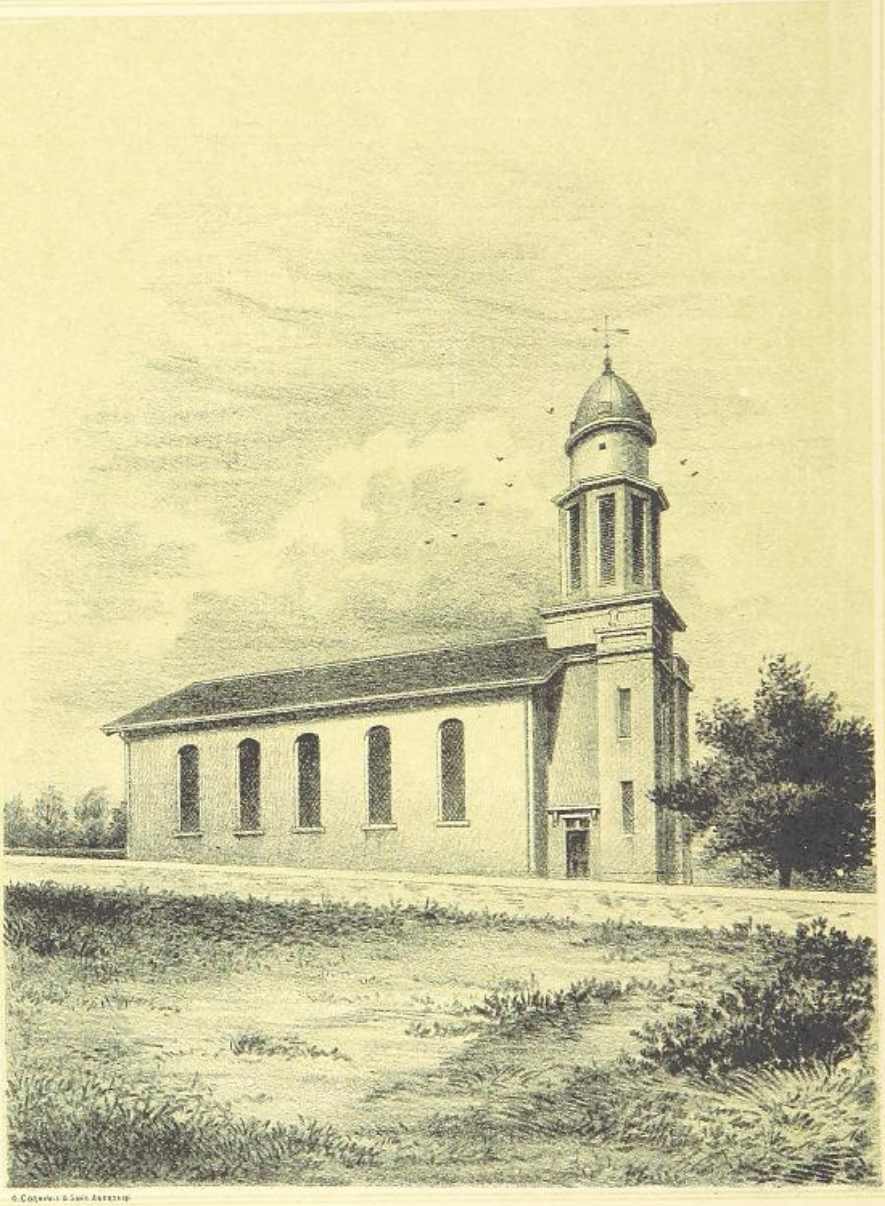


ESTABLISHED CHURCH — WOODSIDE.

prominent part in the Reform proceedings in Edinburgh at that time. One of the principal streets of the Burgh of Woodside (Barron Street) is very properly named after him. In the Appendix to this volume Mr. Barron's views on Burgh Reform are given, on account of his close connection with Woodside.

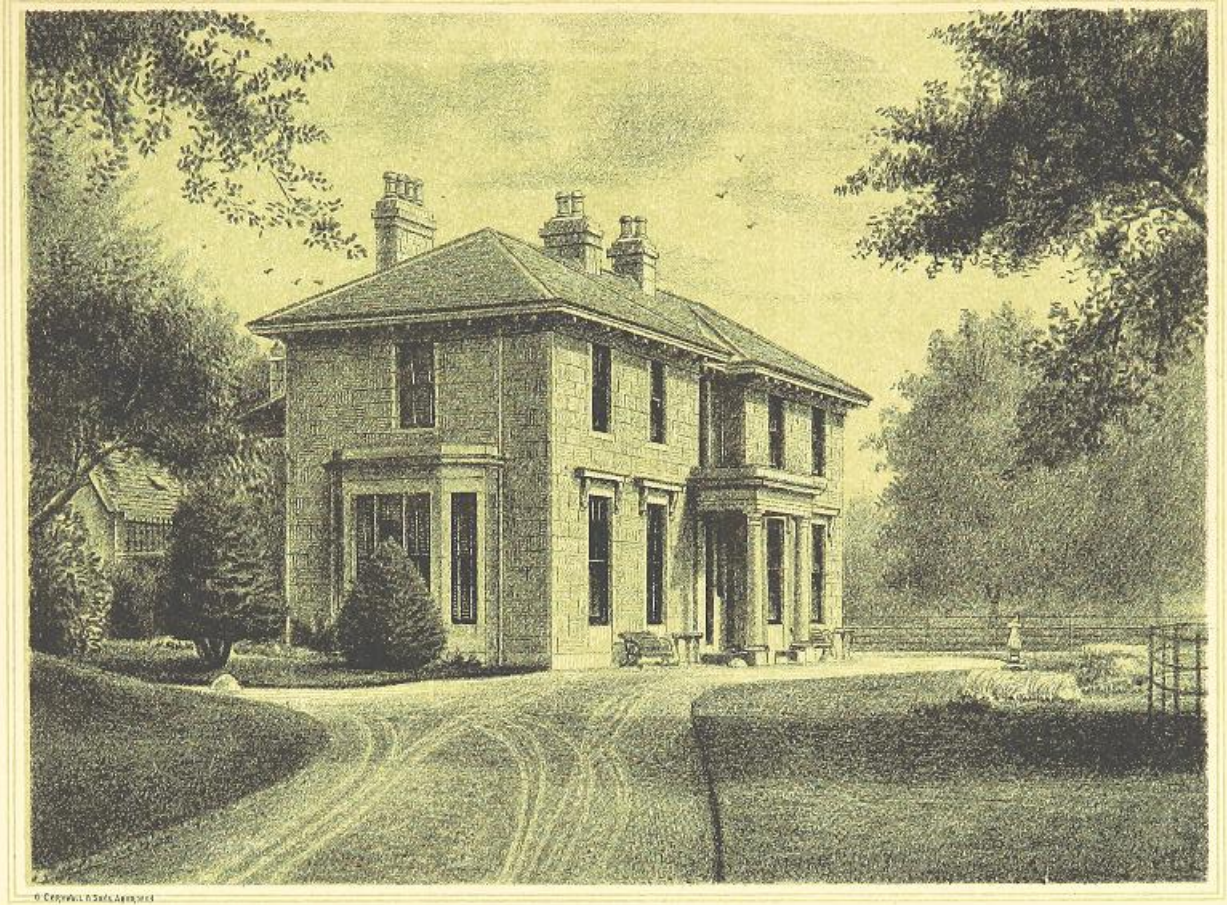
The population of the village, which rapidly increased after the establishment of the Cotton and Flax Mills, came chiefly from the country districts, from the Highlands, and partly from Ireland. Previous to the year 1819 there was no place of public worship in the village, and there was much loitering on Sundays; the distance from any church and the long hours of labour contributed to this. There was no Factory Act in those days limiting the working hours. At a busy season, and when making up lost time caused by accidents, droughts, or high water in the river Don, it was no unusual thing for some of the mills to be kept going till late on Saturday evenings.

Estate of Woodside.

THE history of the Estate of Woodside, the upper part of the Burgh, with its many reminiscences, has always been regarded not only with peculiar interest, but we may say with a warm affection, by those who have been connected with it. This feeling may be accounted for by the fact that it is at once the most beautiful part of the Burgh, and is also the site of its earlier industries—the Waulk Mill, the Snuff Mill, the Bleachfield, Calico Printing, and the extensive Cotton Mills, which in their time gave employment to many thousands of the population. And, as the Estate of Woodside may be said to have been the cradle of the Burgh, we shall endeavour to present to the reader in this chapter as complete a record of its annals as we have been able to gather.

The Estate of Woodside, as has been already indicated, was at an early date called Smithy-Haugh, and also the Lands of Cruives, and Old Cruives. This appears from the following records in the custody of the Town Council of Aberdeen :—

"Charter by John Bannerman disponing of the *Croffs* [Cruives] for 140 merks Scots, redeemable always on payment of said sum in one or two instalments. He dispones for that consideration to his uncle, John Bannerman, a burgess of Aberdeen, all the lands of the Croffs lying within the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, with wood and querell [quarry]," &c. This charter is dated Aberdeen, 13th November, 1440, and confirmed by James III. at Edinburgh, the 2nd April, 1465.



WOODSIDE HOUSE.

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In another charter, dated Aberdeen, 12th January, 1459, John Bannerman, Alesike, in consideration of a certain sum of money paid by the Provost, Baillies, &c., for the redemption of the said lands from Edmond Bannerman (son and heir of the deceased John Bannerman), dispones to the Provost all and whole the lands formerly called *le Smithihalch modernis diebus vocates le Croes*, to be held *in feodo et heriditate* (the Smithy-Haugh, in modern days called the Cruives, to be held in feu, farm fee, and heritage).

Charter by James III. to the Provost, &c., of the lands of "Crwuys" [Cruives] with the pertinents lying within the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, resigned in the King's hands at Striueline [Stirling] by the said John Bannerman of Alesike, to be held *in feodo heriditate* as freely as the said John Bannerman held it before his resignation, reserving the King's duties; dated 26th October, 1465. The annual feu-duties fixed by a Head Court of the Citizens of Aberdeen on 4th March, 1551, were for the Lands of Cruives, £40; and for the fishings of the Cruives, £25 Scots money.

It appears from the following deliverance by the Provost and Baillies of Aberdeen that a dispute had arisen between the occupiers of the town and Lands of Cruives and the fishers, regarding the building of huts or houses for their accommodation at the cruives:—

"9TH MARCH, 1539.—The said day, it was funden and deliuerit be the provest and balzeis above writtin with the awese, consent and deliuerance of the conseill undervrittin: that is to say, Gilbert Menzes of Fyndoun, Androu Cullane, John Colisone, Umquhill Provestis, Valter Cullane, Duncane Mar, Alexr. Nicholsone and Gilbert Malysone, tuyching the debaitt of the byggyng of Shelis on the vatter bank of the *Cruvis*, betuix, John Hay, Dauid Menzes, Gilbert Fressor, and the laif of the taxman of the tounis vatteris of the Cruvis and Maister John Vatsone and Alexr. Forbes, occupiaris of the landis and toun of *Cruvis*, pertening to the said burgh, the forsaidis provest balzeis and conseill all in ane voce fand and deliuerit in presens of the saidis partiis, that it suld be lesum to all and syndre the tounis taxmen of thair vatteris of Cruvis, to byg

scheill or schelis sa mony as thai thocht expedient, on the vatter banks of Cruvis forsaid to eise tham self for keiping of thair fische and clayis during the saason of thair fisching, and commandis, chargis, and ordainis that thair be na impediment nor stop maid to thame in byggyng of the said schelis in tyme to cum, noyther be thair tenentis forsaid thair seruandis, nor utheris quhatsumevir vnder all pane and charge that efter ma follow."

We find among miscellaneous occurrences about this period that on the 1st December, 1574, Gilbert Knowles, elder, burgess, and Gilbert Knowles, his son, were slain near the cruives by James Gordon, brother of the Laird of Abergeldie.

We shall here give an account of an affray, which probably occurred at Woodside, between some of the inhabitants of Old Aberdeen and New Aberdeen, on the occasion of riding the marches. The record which we quote is dated 4th June, 1594 :—

"Law burrows obtained at the instance of the burgesses and citizens of Old Aberdeen against the Provost, Baillies, Council, and community of New Aberdeen, for an alleged attack made by 800 inhabitants of New Aberdeen, having banners, trumpets, hagbuts, pistols, lances, steel bonnets, dacks, &c., upon 30 citizens of Old Aberdeen, with Sir John Carnegie of Kinnaird, Baillie of the Bishopric of Aberdeen, while peaceably engaged in walking the land marches of the forrest and commonty of Aberdeen, granted to the Bishop of Aberdeen by King Malcolm Canmore and King David, and confirmed by King James IV., Anno 1489, which marches led along through the Lands of Sunnyside, up a little galley moss, east of and under the Forresterhill, along to the Stocket Head, Whitemyres, Rathhillock, Wanefuird, down Buxburn, from that to the Burn of Auchmull, thence along the high road to the upper faulds of the *Cruives*, and thence to the Deirdyke."

The cruives were not popular with the upper heritors of the Don, who no doubt felt that an unfair advantage of

them was taken in the too-successful arrest of the salmon in the lower reaches of the river. The following extract, from a record dated 1664, will show the strong feeling of indignation of the upper heritors, in connection with the renewal of the cruives, at that date :—

"Cruives lately built and renewed on the water of Don. The Earl of Mar, with certain other noblemen and freeholders upon Don, with about 2500 horse and foot, convene at Kintore and Hallforest, for breaking down the same. Gilbert Gray, Provost, and Alexander Davidson, advocate, with the clerk, were sent by the town as commissioners to his lordship and Convention, to offer any reasonable satisfaction for any supposed wrong in the cruives, if any shall be found.

"The Earl of Mar and his confederates, to the number of 2500, proceed to the cruives, which they break down."

This rude mode of redressing a real or supposed grievance was in this case successful, for, as far as we know, the cruives were never rebuilt at that part of the river, the Lands of Cruives being some time after called *Old Cruives*. The magistrates and the proprietors of the fishings complained to the civil courts, but we do not know that the outrage was ever redressed. The existing cruives at Rapahana, opposite Gordon's Mills, were very probably constructed shortly after this episode. The speedy manner in which the Earl of Mar and the other upper heritors accomplished their work of destruction in the particular case recorded above naturally calls up the recollection of another real or supposed grievance of the upper heritors, a hundred and fifty years later, in connection with this same part of the river Don, which involved Messrs Leys, Masson, and Co. in a most expensive and vexatious litigation, lasting over twenty years.

In a charter to Jacob Sandilands, dated 9th June, 1752, the lands of Woodside are described as follows :—

"In all and haill the toune and lands of Cruives, with

the waulk mill thereof, now turned into a snuff mill, houses, biggings, lofts, crofts, parts pendles and pertinents of the same."

In a charter four years later, viz., 26th August, 1756, granted to Patrick Barron, wright in Aberdeen, the description runs as follows :—

"All and haill the town and lands of Old Cruives (now called Woodside), with the waulk mill thereof, now turned into a snuff mill, with the houses, biggings, yards, trees, planting, and haill pertinents, liberties, and privileges thereto belonging. . . ."

This Patrick Barron was a member of the Wright and Cooper Incorporation, and held in succession the offices of Boxmaster, Deacon, and Master of Hospital. He was chosen Convener of the Incorporated Trades in 1738, and re-elected in 1739. He was the father of Patrick Barron, of the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., Woodside and Aberdeen. He died 25th June, 1771, aged 71 years.

BOUNDARY OF THE ESTATE OF WOODSIDE.

We find the boundary of the Estate of Woodside well defined in a deed of settlement executed by Patrick Barron, on the 26th December, 1798, in the following terms, viz. :—

"All and whole the town and lands of Old Cruives (now called Woodside), with the waulk mill thereof afterwards turned into a snuff mill, &c., &c., bound and marched in manner following, viz. :—Beginning the march of property of said lands at the foot of the Deer dyke on the bank of the water of Don, and holding up the said dyke along the dyke which divides the said lands from the lands of Cotton, sometime belonging to George Middleton of Seaton until it comes to the north side of the market road leading from Aberdeen to the Greenburn, where there is a new march stone set up with the letters O. C. for Old Cruives, and from thence holding along to the

north side of the said market road until it comes to the corner of the dyke enclosing the corn ground next to the planting of Old Cruives, where there is another new march stone set up marked on the top with the letters O. C., for Old Cruives, as above, and from thence holding still along the north side of the market road till it comes to another new march stone set up at the side of the said enclosure of corn ground marked on the top with the letters O. C., for Old Cruives, as aforesaid, and from thence holding still along the north side of said market road until it comes to the Cruive Burn, which divides the said lands of Old Cruives from the lands sometime belonging to Dr. Alexander Donaldson of Auchmull, and thereafter descending or holding down the said Cruive Burn until it enters the said water of Don, and holding down the said water until it comes to the foot of the Deer dyke, where the boundary began."

The Waulk Mill referred to in the two charters already quoted appears, as far as we can gather, to have been at the cruives at a very early date. The first that we find in possession of this mill is an Alexander Smith, who is said to have converted it into a copper mill. He was succeeded by Alexander Gray, who obtained from Mr. George Sandilands, the then proprietor, a lease of the crofts and the copper mill at Old Cruives for the space of nineteen times nineteen years from Whitsunday, 1744. This Alexander Gray turned the copper mill into a snuff mill, which afterwards had two storeys and seven mills or pots. On the 28th January, 1764, Alexander Gray assigned his lease of the crofts and mill to Charles Copland, who, along with his son Peter, carried on an extensive business in the Broadgate, Aberdeen. Copland added to the snuff mill on the croft a meal and barley mill, a waulk mill, and a whin mill. He also obtained a lease of part of the lands of Auchmull, adjoining his croft at the cruives, on which he erected a dwelling-house, with sundry offices, and laid out

a beautiful garden. This is the well-known house at the Grove. We may mention that this house was occupied by the Rev. Dr. John Brown, minister of Newhills, after he ceded his manse to his successor and son-in-law, the Rev. George Allan. Charles Copland became bankrupt, and by a disposition of date 24th January, 1771, sold and disponed, in favour of his trustees, all his property, to be divided among his creditors. They sold the already-mentioned mills on the 26th February, 1771, with a right to Copland's tack for the sum of £1340 sterling, to Patrick Barron, of Woodside. He, at the same time and for this sum, obtained a right to the tack and assedation, dated 29th January, 1759, entered into between Charles Anderson, Hadagain, with consent of the proprietors, and Alexander Gray, of a small piece of ground adjoining the croft of Old Cruives.

NOTE.—The boundary of the Burgh of Woodside will be found in the Appendix.

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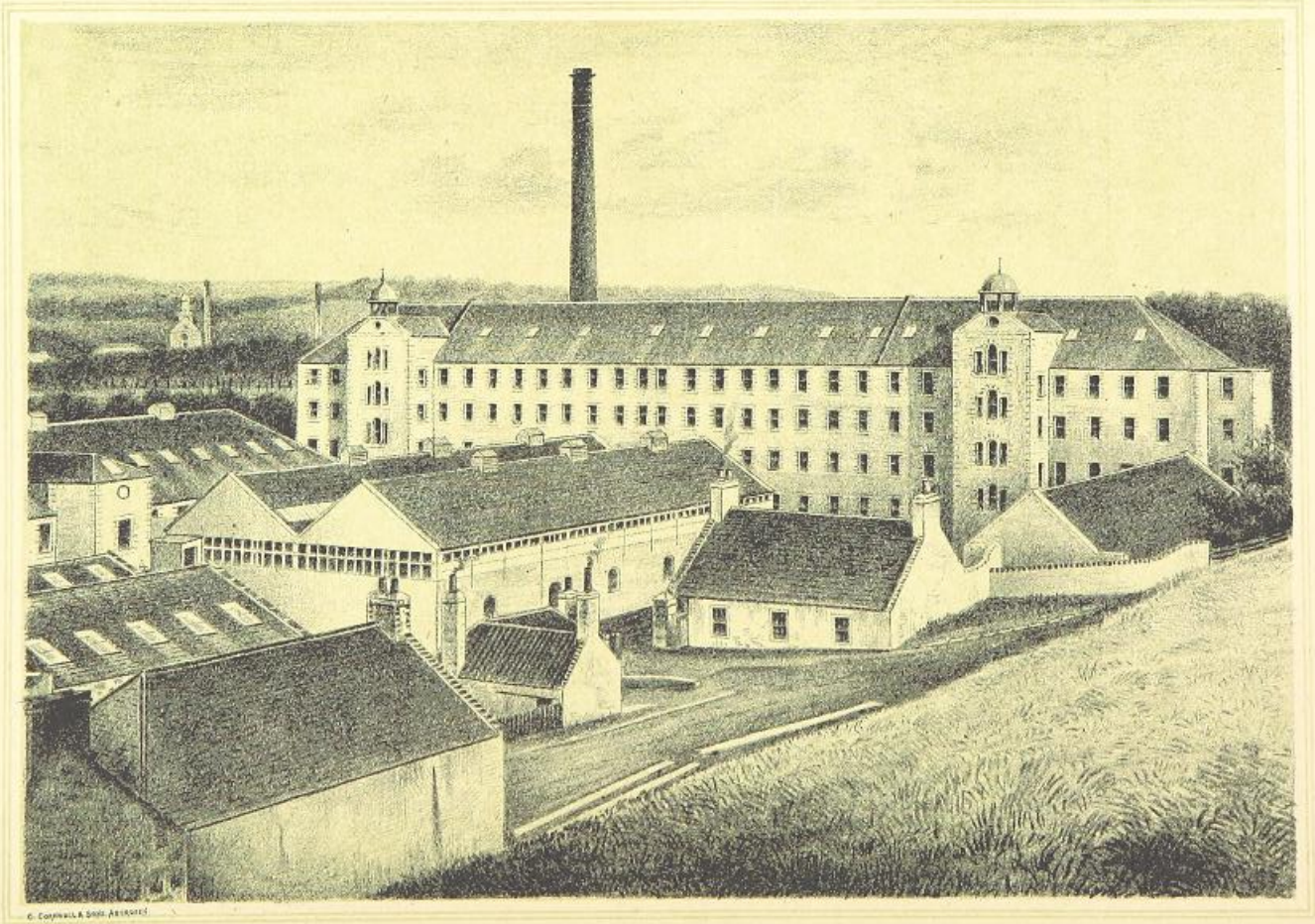

WOODSIDE WORKS.

Formerly Messrs Gordon, Barron & Co now Messrs A Pirie & Sons.

Woodside Works.

MR. BARRON, after acquiring Copland's lease, could not help observing that the supply of water, however advantageously it had been employed, might be rendered still more profitable by continuing the lead through the lower parts of his grounds. He accordingly began to make a new cut from the termination of the old water course, when three gentlemen—Alexander Milne, George Gordon, and John Duguid—proposed to take from him a lease of his whole land with the privilege of water. The object of these gentlemen was to establish a bleachfield and printfield; and Mr. Barron became himself a partner in the venture, and on the 15th November, 1775, he gave the Company a lease of the whole haughs and the lower parts of his grounds at Woodside, extending to about 22 or 23 acres of land, "with the whole privileges of that cut or canal lately made out by me from the end of the water course which served the old mills as continued through my grounds towards the Fordhaugh, and of bringing as much water by the said cut agreeable to the lease subsisting between Mr. Copland and me;" and, further, also with the privilege of collecting and conducting to this field the water in the braes of his property; "and, further, if you shall have occasion for a higher cut or canal through my grounds for supplying yourselves with more water, for the purposes which you may have in view, on the foresaid haugh, I also give you liberty to make a cut or canal through my grounds for that purpose from the river Don, as nearly on a level as may be with the intake of the snuff mill, and to conduct water from the same to the foresaid haugh."

In consequence of this lease, Mr. Barron and the other gentlemen already mentioned entered into a co-partnery, and proceeded to establish in the haugh of Woodside an extensive bleachfield and printfield. This was the origin of Gordon, Barron, & Co.'s establishment; but their increasing prosperity and the immense improvement everywhere in the application of machinery soon led to works of a higher and more important description.

At the commencement of this Company, cotton mills were almost unknown. A very few only had been recently erected in England, and there was but one in Scotland. The late Mr. A. Milne, however, one of their partners, became intimately acquainted with the famous Sir Richard Arkwright, the inventor and improver of cotton-spinning machinery, who did not fail to point out the advantages afforded by Woodside for the erection of a cotton mill. With great generosity and public spirit, Arkwright offered to receive into his own works in Derbyshire a number of their servants, for the purpose of instructing them in the erection and management of machinery and the manufacture of cotton. Gordon, Barron, & Co. did not fail to act upon this valuable advice, and to avail themselves of the offer by which it was accompanied. They proceeded, therefore, in 1785, to raise the buildings requisite for a cotton manufactory and printfield; and, as they found that they would need more land and a fuller command of water, they obtained from Mr. Barron a new lease for ninety-nine years of his property upon the banks of the Don.

We shall here give a copy of part of Gordon, Barron, and Co.'s contract of co-partnery, 1785:—

"The parties following, namely, Alexander Milne of Crimonmogate, merchant in Aberdeen; Patrick Milne, younger, of Crimonmogate; Patrick Barron, of Woodside, merchant in Aberdeen; John Duguid, merchant in Glasgow; Alexander Milne, junior, merchant in Aberdeen; John Gordon, junior, merchant there, only lawful son and executor, and now coming in place of the deceased George

Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen, his father being the original partner, established at and near the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, under the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, for carrying on the business of a printfield and of manufacturing linen and cotton cloths, and cloths of linen and cotton mixed for printing; and James Young, some time of Glasgow and now of Aberdeen, merchant: whereas, by certain articles of agreement executed amongst us, the said original partners, we united ourselves together in partnership for carrying on the foresaid business at or near Aberdeen, under certain rules and regulations therein mentioned, and upon a capital of £ , and that we have now, in pursuance thereof, acquired from the said Patrick Barron a lease for ninety-nine years, from the term of Martinmas last, for a certain part of the lands of Woodside, which appears to us to be necessary for enabling us not only to prosecute the foresaid business, but to extend the same according to our present views; and that we have also purchased, in name of the said Alexander Milne, a feu right to a lot or piece of ground from the Marischal College, Aberdeen, lying upon the west side of Belmont Street, in Aberdeen, upon which we have erected buildings necessary for the accommodation of the foresaid business; and that, with the same views, we have also purchased another small tenement of land adjoining thereto, in name of the said Alexander Milne—the original value of all which, as well as the money laid out by us thereon, stands and will appear upon our books; and, whereas the said James Young hath been employed by us as the manager and conductor of the present business ever since the year 1779, upon certain articles and terms stipulated upon betwixt him and us, and that he is now further desirous to hold an equal share with us in the foresaid business; and that we are now well satisfied from experience of his capacity and attention, not only to admit him thereto upon the condition aftermentioned, but to continue in the manage-

ment of the foresaid joint trade during our pleasure, upon the terms already agreed upon betwixt him and us; and that we have now views of extending the foresaid business and erecting a mill and machinery for the spinning of cotton upon the foresaid lands, taken in lease by us from the foresaid Patrick Barron, and in which considerable progress is already made, and that on these accounts we judge it to be fit and expedient to execute a formal contract of co-partnership for the determining of our several differences in the present business, and for establishing such prudential rules and regulations as occur to us for the better conducting of the same.

"Therefore we, the haill parties above named, (viz., the said Alexander and Patrick Milne, Patrick Barron, and John Duguid, Alexander Milne, jr.; John Gordon, jr.; and James Young) covenant and agree to unite ourselves as partners together in a Company, under the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., for carrying on the business of a printfield at or near to the town of Aberdeen, and manufacturing linen and cotton cloths, or cloths of cotton and linen mixed, and the business of a cotton-spinning mill," &c., &c.

The above James Young died in January, 1787. John Duguid some time after quitted the place, and returned to Glasgow; and Alexander Milne, senior, Crimonmogate, died on Wednesday, the 11th February, 1789. His wife, Margaret Bannerman, died shortly before this date.

Alexander Milne, senior, of Crimonmogate, and his two sons, Patrick and Alexander, all partners of the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., were also partners of the firm of Milne, Cruden, & Co., along with Alexander Young of Cornhill, who was managing partner; Alexander Garioch, Provost William Cruden, Alexander Strachan, and Alexander Davidson. Milne, Cruden, & Co. were proprietors of Spring Garden Works, Aberdeen, Gordon's Mills, and others, where an extensive linen trade was carried on for

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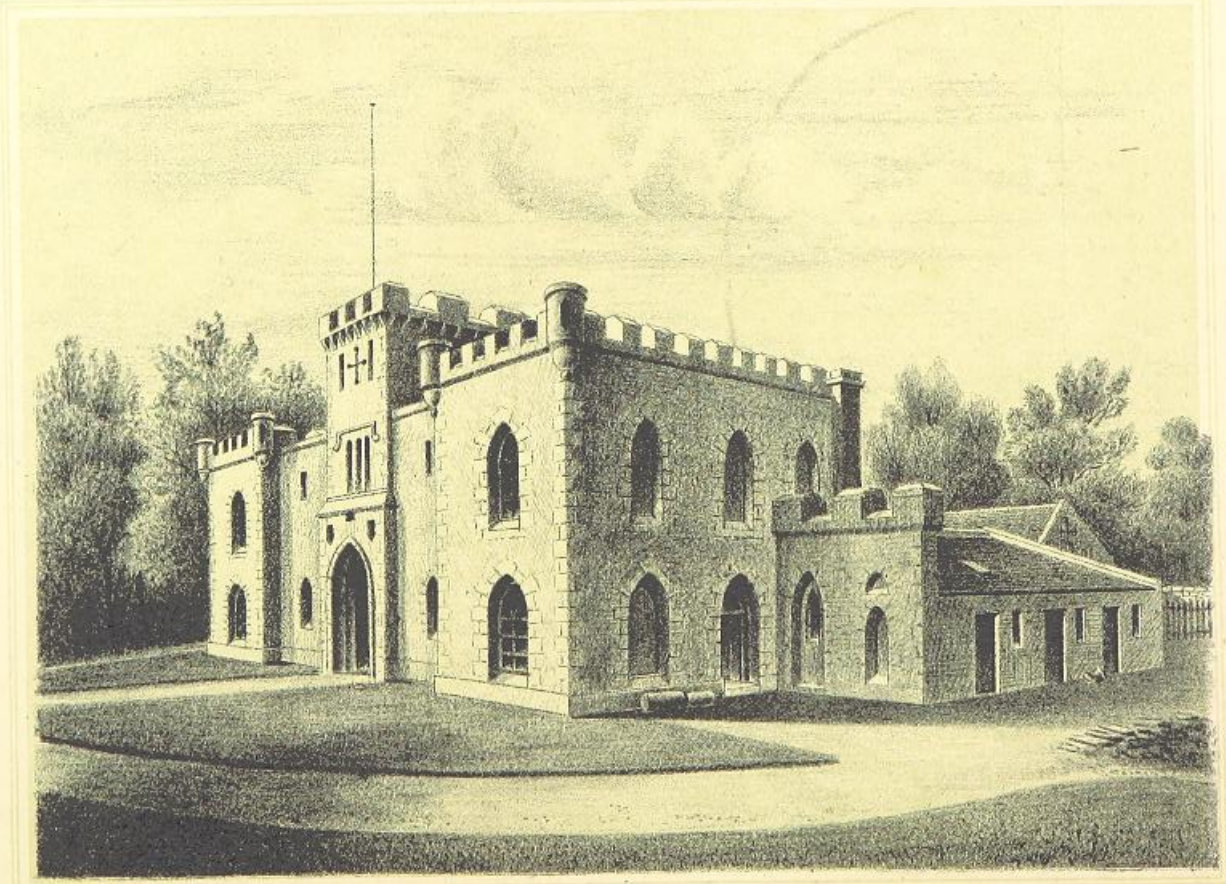


OLD "BARRACKS," WOODSIDE,

near Woodside House.

many years. The capital stock of this Company, on the first day of January, 1784, was £18,333 6s. 8d. sterling, and consisted of eleven equal shares: three shares belonged to Alexander Milne, senior, of Crimonmogate, and his two sons, two each to Cruden, Garioch, and Young, and one each to Davidson and Strachan.

Patrick Barron died 19th March, 1799, aged 71 years, and left his estate of Woodside and his share in the works to Patrick Kilgour. Alexander Milne, junior, died on the 19th May, 1800. Soon after, Charles Ross and James Mowat became partners in the firm of Gordon, Barron, and Co. Charles Ross was brother to the Rev. Dr. Ross, East Church, Aberdeen.

We shall here give the following notice of the death of Alexander Milne, who died in middle life :—

"Died at Edinburgh, on the 19th current, Alexander Milne, Esq., merchant of this place. Yesterday, the Royal Aberdeen Volunteers (of which Mr. Milne was major), as a mark of respect to his memory, marched from Castle Street in solemn funeral procession to the West Church, where an excellent sermon on the brevity of human life was preached by the Rev. Dr. Shirreffs, chaplain to the corps." —*Aberdeen Journal*, Monday, 26th May, 1800.

That large building near Woodside House, familiarly designated The Barracks, which never fails to attract the eyes of strangers as they pass along the high road, from which it is seen peering out from among the surrounding foliage, as a place of some importance and beauty, is first noticed in a tack between Patrick Barron and Gordon, Barron, & Co., dated 20th June, 1797, thus :—

"And in respect the Company have now erected near the said snuff mill a large building for the accommodation of children employed at their cotton mills and otherwise,—"

In this same charter the value of the snuff mill, &c., is reckoned and taken over at £200 sterling for the buildings

and at £100 sterling for the machinery—certainly a great reduction from the price paid for these subjects in 1771. The young lads who lived in The Barracks were called "*bun* (bound) boys," because they were all apprenticed to the calico-printing business for some years.

In a contract of excambion between Gordon, Barron, and Co. and Patrick Kilgour (first), of Woodside, dated 17th December, 1803, we learn that Mr. Kilgour paid to that firm the sum of £384 9s. sterling, which sum Colin Innes estimated to be the value of the dwelling-house called The Barracks :—

"It being freely understood and agreed upon that the said Company shall not be obliged to remove from the said Barracks for the space of twelve months from this date, so that they may be able to get accommodation elsewhere for the servants who reside there at present."

No doubt the laird would find the young people who lived in The Barracks rather troublesome neighbours at times, and, as the houses at the village had by this date been considerably increased, there was less necessity for the building as a dwelling-house than at the time of its erection.

Messrs. Gordon, Barron, & Co. had a feu of ground and some weaving shops at Arduthie, Stonehaven—charter registered 31st August, 1804 ; also a feu at Bankhead, near Stoneywood, of a piece of uncultivated bank from James Forbes of Seaton, dated 15th April, 1819 ; also a lease of extensive premises, No. 8 Budge Row, in London, for 21 years, from 20th March, 1822, which premises Messrs. Alexander Piric & Sons occupied more than 40 years ago.

From a report presented to the House of Commons early in this century by a committee appointed to inquire into the number of persons occupied in the different manufactures in Great Britain, it appears that 976 workmen were kept in Gordon, Barron, & Co.'s employment at Woodside. The report says—"The population of the

village, which has risen in consequence of these works, amounts to upwards of 2000, and the value of the ground in the vicinity has risen to a degree unprecedented, it is believed, in any other place." By the same report it appears that 544 workmen were employed at Grandholm Works.

The following is part of a disposition and assignation to Gordon, Barron, & Co., which is here quoted because it contains a pretty complete record of the changes in the Company during the latter part of their history :—

"Considering that by disposition dated the 7th and 20th days of February, and recorded in the Sheriff Court books of Aberdeenshire the 9th March, 1826, granted by the said Patrick Kilgour, of Woodside; Charles Bannerman* of Kirkhill and Crimonmogate, in his own right as universal disponee of said deceased Patrick Milne, of Crimonmogate; and by the also deceased Charles Ross, manufacturer in Aberdeen, the then only partners of the foresaid firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co.—They, the said Patrick Kilgour, Charles Bannerman, and Charles Ross, for the causes therein specified, disponed, assigned, and conveyed to and in favour of us, the said Alexander Forbes, George Bannerman, and Patrick Kilgour, therein named and designed Patrick Kilgour, younger, of Balcairn; and James Kilgour, therein named and designed James Kilgour, younger, of Bethelnie; Thomas Bannerman, junior; and Alexander Brown, and the said deceased James Thom, late of Halifax, then of Aberdeen; Andrew Jopp, advocate in Aberdeen; and the said Charles Ross, then comprising the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., on account and for behoof of said Company, their heirs, executors, and assignees—All and whole the several leases at Woodside, contract of excambion, obligatory letter, and the machinery and others therein and hereafter assigned: and, further, considering that the share of the capital, stock,

* Afterwards Sir Charles Bannerman, Bart., in succession to his father.

interest, and profits of the said concern of Gordon, Barron, and Co., embracing a proportional part and interest in the leases and others hereinafter assigned, which belonged to the said James Thom and Alexander Brown, were conveyed by them respectively to their sons, Alexander Thom and Alexander Brown, junr., and that the shares of the said Alexander Thom and Alexander Brown, junr., were purchased by me, the said James Kilgour; that the shares of the said Thomas Bannerman, junr., were purchased by me, the said George Bannerman, and that the value of the shares belonging to the said Andrew Jopp and Charles Ross were upon their respective deaths paid to their executors from the funds of the Company, conform to the several assignations and discharges granted, whereby the whole concern and interest in the foresaid Company and in the whole stock and subjects thereof now belongs to us, the said Alexander Forbes, James Kilgour, Patrick Kilgour, now of Woodside, and George Bannerman: as also considering that we, the said Alexander Forbes, James Kilgour, Patrick Kilgour, and George Bannerman, subsequent to our acquiring right to the shares of the other partners as aforesaid, entered into a new contract of co-partnery, dated 27th December, 1833, for carrying on the business of the said co-partnery trade under the foresaid firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co."

The four gentlemen last named continued the only partners of Gordon, Barron, & Co., to its close in 1851.

Alexander Forbes had been a captain in the army, was laird of Blackford, and great-grandson of Mary Jamesone, daughter of George Jamesone, the famous Aberdeen artist—the "Scottish Vandyck." His mother was a daughter of the celebrated Dr. John Gregory, of Edinburgh University, author of several scientific works, and of "A Father's Legacy to his Daughters." Captain Forbes and Sir Charles Bannerman were married to daughters of Charles Bannerman, advocate in Aberdeen. Captain Forbes was a vigorous, military-looking

gentleman, with a bluff and open manner. He was specially interested in the mechanical arrangements of the works. His letters were always short, dignified, and to the point.

The following scraps may be interesting :—

On the 9th inst., at Fountain Hall, near Aberdeen, were married John Forbes, Esq. of Blackford, and Anna Margarette Gregory, daughter of the late Dr. Gregory.—*Aberdeen Journal*, 13th September, 1784.

The next we quote from Jervise's "Epitaphs," vol. II., page 356 :—

In the memory of his dearly beloved wife, Anna Margaret Gregory, and of himself, destined to follow her. John Forbes, Blackford, erected this monument, A.D., 1826.

Mrs. Forbes was a daughter of Professor John Gregory, of Edinburgh, by his wife Elizabeth, fifth daughter of the 13th Lord Forbes.

Alexander Forbes of Blackford, son of the above, was born on the 1st November, 1786, and died 28th October, 1851, aged 66 years, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Charles Bannerman, Esq., advocate, died the 24th day of March, 1825, aged 36 years.

The said Alexr. Forbes, his wife, and family are buried in the graveyard called St. John's, the property and burying place of his ancestors, the Forbeses of Lethentie and Aquhorthies.

George Bannerman was a son of Charles Bannerman, advocate, and a cousin of Sir Charles Bannerman, of Crimonmogate. Although trained in his youth to the business of cotton spinning, he did not afterwards take an active part in the management. He was a straightforward, conscientious, gentleman, and the workers were always pleased to see his stately form on his occasional visits to the works.

Patrick Kilgour, the second laird of Woodside of that name, is still alive (1885). Although he did not take a very active part in the business, yet his amiable and gentlemanly demeanour invariably called forth the respect of those with whom he came in contact.

James Kilgour was the most prominent and active partner of the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., during the last twenty-five years of its existence. Mr. Kilgour was

trained to a mercantile business previous to his connection with Woodside Works. In person he was a little over medium height, and spare ; somewhat stooping, and quick in all his movements ; had a pale and anxious expression of face ; was always in earnest, and most careful, economical, and temperate in all his habits ; could drive a hard bargain ; was frank, and free from pride ; most industrious, and unwearied in his application to business. As the Kilgours held a prominent position at Woodside for so many years, we shall give some account of that family. We find in Dr. Skene Keith's "Survey of Aberdeenshire," published in 1811, the following :—"In the division of Buchan there are two cloth manufactories. The first and oldest is at Kinmundy, belonging to the Messrs. Kilgour, which has done a great deal of business in the course of about thirty years." Pratt, in his interesting book on Buchan, says "these works at Auchlee are now in ruins. In the year 1828 this establishment was unfortunately broken up." Previous to his connection with Cothal Mills, at Fintray, John Crombie was employed in Messrs. Kilgours' counting-house at Auchlee, at the commencement of the present century. The Kilgours were first at Kinmundy, and afterwards they erected the mills at Auchlee.

The following inscription from a table-shaped stone, erected at Cruden, relates to the parents of Bishop Robert Kilgour, at one time Episcopal minister at Peterhead, and afterwards Bishop of Aberdeen, and Primus :—

> Here are deposited, in hopes of a happy resurrection, the remains of Robert Kilgour, some time Litster at Waulkmill of Cruden, where having lived upwards of LI years he died the XXIIId day of September, in the year of our Lord MDCCLVIII, and in the LXXIId year of his age ; and the remains of Isobel Barron, his spouse, who died the XXIId day of December in the year of God MDCCLXII and of her age the LXXIId year.

The Isobel Barron mentioned above was sister to the first Patrick Barron of Woodside, and the mother of Bishop

Kilgour, and also mother of Thomas Kilgour, of Fraserburgh, and of Patrick Kilgour of Kinmundy. This Patrick Kilgour had a family of twenty-one children by his wife Jane Sangster, aunt to the late Thomas Sangster, advocate in Aberdeen. Among this large family were the first Patrick Kilgour of Woodside ; Thomas Kilgour of Bethelnie, father of James Kilgour, for many years managing partner of Woodside Works ; Robert Kilgour, Kinmundy ; George Kilgour of Balcairn (father of the second Patrick Kilgour of Woodside) ; and William Kilgour of Tulloch. The second Patrick Barron left the estate of Woodside to Patrick Kilgour, son of his cousin Patrick Kilgour, Kinmundy, brother of Bishop Kilgour.

Bishop Kilgour was the principal promoter of the appointment of Dr. Seabury, the first American Bishop, from which appointment 139 prelates have sprung, and, being Primus, took a leading part in the consecration of that famous prelate, which took place in Aberdeen on the 14th November, 1784. The centenary of his consecration was celebrated in Aberdeen, in 1884, with great enthusiasm, on which occasion were present a large number of Episcopal dignitaries from all parts of the world.

About the year 1830, the cotton factory in Belmont Street, Aberdeen, which belonged to Gordon, Barron, and Co., was stopped ; and in 1843 the property was purchased by Mr. Francis Edmond for the Free West, East, and South Churches. At a meeting of the Joint Local Provisional Committee, held on the 17th April, 1843, "Mr. Edmond reported that he had that day, in name of the Site Sub-Committee, settled with Messrs. Gordon, Barron, and Co., for the purchase of the property in Belmont Street belonging to them." This Joint Local Provisional Committee was appointed for the purpose of looking out sites for new churches in anticipation of the Disruption in May of the same year, and represented all the congregations in connection with the Established Church in

Aberdeen. On this site the three churches, with handsome spire, were built in 1843 from a design by Archibald Simpson, architect. Some time after this, Captain Forbes, and James and Patrick Kilgour purchased the cotton works belonging to Messrs. Forbes, Low, & Co. (in which venture George Bannerman did not take part). The works were carried on under the name of the Bon-Accord Cotton Mill Co., and managed by Mr. John M'Neil. After a few years, and in consequence of severe depression in the cotton trade, the concern was stopped. This mill, which was built in the year 1800 at Poynernook for Forbes, Low, & Co., afterwards became the property of Messrs. Alexander Pirie & Sons, paper manufacturers, Stoneywood, and is now used in connection with the envelope making and coloured paper departments of their business. The mill has been almost completely surrounded with additional buildings to meet the requirements of the trade of the firm.

Woodside Works, as has already been stated, began with calico-printing and bleaching. The old spinning mill was built in 1778 and extended in 1786. The larger spinning mill (6 floors) was built in 1793 ; and some time after, two large weaving sheds were erected, containing over 200 power-looms. About the year 1839 a large preparing mill was erected, which stands between the two spinning mills. It is 197 feet long and 50 feet wide, two storeys in height with attics, costing £2500 ; and, with new machinery, and fitting up part of the larger spinning mill, was estimated to cost about £12,000. But long before that the Company had laid out more than £100,000 on the plant.

The printing was given up about the year 1830. There were three large water wheels and two smaller wheels. A powerful marine steam engine was erected in 1837, and was named "Victoria" after the Queen, who ascended the throne that year. There was a pretty large foundry, which supplied castings for the works and country customers, and also a mechanics' shop, where the celebrated Sir John Anderson served his apprenticeship. The bleach-

ing and cloth-finishing operations were carried on within the premises. The Company manufactured their own gas. The Snuff Mill, which was close on the river side near The Barracks, already referred to, was stopped on account of an Act of Parliament, early in this century, prohibiting snuff mills being carried on within three miles of the sea, probably as a check to the smuggling of tobacco.

We find the following in Wilson's "Delineation of Aberdeen, 1822":—"The manufacture of cotton was first introduced into Aberdeen in the year 1779 by Messrs. Gordon, Barron, & Co., who still carry on the business on an extensive scale, and are, we believe, the only house in Scotland who import the wool [cotton], spin it into yarn, and weave, bleach, and print their goods. These various branches they carry on at their establishment in Belmont Street and at their works at Woodside, distant about two miles from the town and situated on the right bank of the river Don. They give employment to upward of 3000 persons of both sexes."

John Gordon of Murtle (Gordon, Barron, & Co.) died in the year 1819, aged 62 years, and bequeathed his fortune for charitable purposes. This bequest is now known as the "Murtle Fund." His gravestone records that he "lived respected and died regretted."

Patrick Milne of Crimonmogate died 16th May, 1820, aged 65.

James Mowat died 8th June, 1823, aged 59.

Patrick Kilgour died 4th December, 1830, aged 74 years.

Charles Ross died 10th March, 1831, aged 66 years.

James Kilgour died in the Isle of Man on the 14th February, 1855, aged 63 years.

George Bannerman died on the 25th February, 1870, aged 71 years.

The first manager of the printing establishment was John Smith, who died in 1816. He was the father of the

late John Smith, President of the Society of Advocates, who was born within the gate of the works. In the mechanical department there were Robert Milne, grandfather of John Duguid Milne, advocate, and Irvine Kempt, stepfather of Sir John Anderson. In the spinning department there were, in succession, John Inkston, Alexander Milne, Robert Osborne, John Keith, and Alexander Seton, who was the last spinning manager. The managers of the weaving department were, successively, Alexander Brown, son of Provost Brown ; George Macnaughton, and William Jamieson. The bleaching and cloth-finishing department was managed by Hugh Mackenzie. The cashiers at various times were Charles Ross ; Patrick Barron, son of the second Patrick Barron, of Woodside ; William M'William, and latterly William Maconachie.

In looking over old almanacs, we find the partners of Gordon, Barron, & Co., taking their places fairly well in the management of the various institutions of the City of Aberdeen. Patrick Barron, of Woodside, was president of a Committee of Burgesses, associated for the purpose of procuring a reform in the Election of Magistrates, etc. Patrick Kilgour, of Woodside, and Alexander Forbes, of Blackford, took part in the great political demonstrations in 1832 in favour of the Reform Bill.

There were no steam whistles nor alarum clocks in those days, and the Company had to send a man round the village to blow a horn at half-past five in the morning —in some cases, we fear, a very unwelcome note of warning. The working hours were from six in the morning till half-past seven in the evening, with two intervals for meals of 45 minutes each ; Saturdays, from six o'clock morning till five o'clock afternoon, 45 minutes for breakfast, with no dinner hour, making a total of 70 hours 15 minutes for the week.

It is not easy to account for the collapse of Gordon, Barron, & Co. The partners for the most part were, from the beginning to the end of the concern, substantial men

—what may be termed wealthy—the managers of the various departments were, upon the whole, quite capable, and the works were throughout conducted with great care and economy. New machinery was freely introduced, and sometimes experienced men were brought from the south ; but the strain of frequent periods of depressed trade was too much for them ; and, after struggling for some time with reduced hours of labour and wages, that busy hive of industry was silenced, where, during a period of nearly eighty years, many thousands of the villagers had earned a comfortable livelihood and had spent many happy days.

In the latter years of this Company dissensions arose among the partners, the mixing of the cotton being one of the causes of difference. On the one hand, Captain Forbes had the notion that more Surat cotton, being cheaper than Orleans, should be mixed with the Orleans. Mr. James Kilgour again believed that the larger proportion of Orleans was the more profitable mixture in the end ; and trials of 500 lbs. of the finer and 500 lbs. of the coarser mixture were often made, the waste being carefully weighed at every operation. The trials showed that, although the mixture having the largest proportion of Orleans cost more per lb. at the first operation, at the last it invariably came out cheapest. Captain Forbes had not much confidence in these trials ; and having a strong will, he was not easily convinced of the desirability of any change. Of course, in making up these mixtures, reference must always be had to the size, quality, strength, and price of the yarn to be made ; and much care and observation is required to manage this part of the manufacturing business.

It was no doubt a considerable drawback having to bring the raw cotton from Liverpool, and after spinning the yarn, to compete in Manchester with the large manufacturing houses there. To meet this drawback, however, Gordon, Barron, & Co., had the advantage of water power and lower wages.

Before closing our account of the cotton works of Gordon, Barron, & Co., we may venture some remarks regarding the moral condition of the workers. We have heard concerning the earlier days of this establishment rather unfavourable accounts of the habits of the male portion of the employés. Drunkenness and rough behaviour were very common, especially among the printers. They had high wages, and many of them spent their earnings foolishly. There was no church in the place, nor other counteracting influences.

On one important occasion a feast was held by the leading men of the works, the table being loaded with all sorts of drink. After an important toast had been proposed, and the proposer had emptied his tumbler, by way of emphasis he dashed it to pieces against the wall, amid the cheers of the party. One gentleman said quietly to Major Milne, "Try and beat that," and the Major, who was attired in his volunteer uniform, taking his gun, which was not far off, with it smashed every bottle and tumbler on the table, amid roaring cheers and confusion.

As years rolled on, however, two churches were built, and with day and Sabbath schools, &c., the moral condition of the place greatly improved. The female portion of the workers generally maintained a high standard of character indeed; and we may here state that those in the weaving department generally excelled those in the spinning department. Somehow this holds also good in manufacturing towns in the south. In Dundee, for instance, weaving establishments are called factories, and spinning establishments mills; and the factory girls look down upon the mill girls as their inferiors! As to Woodside Works, we can testify that the workers there, generally speaking, were wonderfully free from that noisy rudeness which is observable in many places among a similar class. We have known many of superior intelligence, and of high moral and religious character, among those workers. There is a healthy moral restraint in a village that is wanting in

large towns, and a more general appreciation of moral excellence as well.

The whole machinery, after the stoppage of the works, was sold in small lots, and after some years these extensive premises were purchased by the Messrs. Alexander Pirie & Sons, Stoneywood, and used as a branch of their papermaking business. About the same time, Mr. George Elmsly became proprietor of that portion of the old estate of Woodside on which the mansion-house stood. The present beautiful mansion was built by Mr. Elmsly upon the same site, and includes part of the old house. Mr. Elmsly died 24th November, 1878, aged 74 years. Dr. James Will, a well-known and much respected physician, succeeded Mr. Elmsly, his brother-in-law, in the proprietorship of Woodside. Dr. Will, who carries on an extensive practice in Aberdeen, has for many years held the office of Government Medical Inspector of Factories for the Aberdeen district. The duties of this office he discharges with judgment and faithfulness, and is admired for his open, gentlemanly, and kindly bearing.

Middlefield.

MIDDLEFIELD is enclosed by Woodside, Auchmull, Northfield, and Hilton, and is divided into Upper and Lower Middlefield. Upper Middlefield was formerly a part of the Commonty of Aberdeen. It measured 33 acres, and was a part of the 45 acres of the Commonty which were feued out by the Provost and Baillies, &c., to Thomas Mosman, advocate in Aberdeen, conform to his feu charter thereon, dated 29th June, 1754, which 33 acres Thomas Mosman disponed to his brother, William Mosman, painter in Aberdeen, conform to a disposition, dated 3rd January, 1756, and registered at Aberdeen the 10th October, 1769, upon which William Mosman, son of the said William Mosman, obtained a charter from the Provost, Baillies, &c., as nearest and lawful heir to his father. These 33 acres are divided into seven enclosures and a mansion-house, &c., &c., built thereon, lying betwixt the parks of Hilton and the parks of Northfield, together with that strip of ground alongst the Cruive (Scatter) Burn lying upon the west side of the foresaid crofts of land, acquired by Thomas Mosman from James Leslie, late at Auchmull, at "straighting" of the marches betwixt their respective properties in consequence of a sentence and judgment of the Sheriff-Depute obtained by Thomas Mosman upon 28th October, 1754. Lower Middlefield formed part of the estate of Old Cruives (Woodside), and was purchased by Thomas Mosman from Jacob Sandilands, merchant, Bordeaux, who sold the larger portion of Old Cruives to Patrick Barron, senior, in 1756.

The following advertisement by Thomas Mosman appears in 1770 :—

On Friday, the 14th September, 1770, will be exposed for sale that Feu belonging to Thomas Mosman, advocate, Aberdeen, being the north half of the third lot of the Stocket Lands or Common Muirs of the Burgh of Aberdeen, consisting of about 24 acres, and of which there are about 12 acres cultivated and improved.

At the same time there will be set in tack, by public roup, a Stone Quarry upon the Lands of Middlefield, close by the high road leading towards Aberdeen by Hilton, for the space of 19 years.

William Mosman, who purchased part of Middlefield from his brother Thomas in 1754, was a well-known painter in Aberdeen, and taught at both Colleges the several branches of drawing—the human figure, landscape, ornamental, practical geometry, architecture, and perspective—each student paying 20s. for six months.

The *Aberdeen Journal* of 13th December, 1762, contains the following paragraph :—

We are extremely glad to inform the public that Mr. William Mosman, Limner, has been very successful in this city (both last and present winters) in teaching drawing and designing to many students in both Universities, and, as a further encouragement to so useful a science, we are told that the Magistrates and Council of this city have resolved to cause educate some burghers' sons, at the public expense, who may have a genius for drawing, and whose parents are not able to pay for their education.

On the 18th June, 1770, William Mosman advertises a sale of his lands, consisting of 33 acres, all trenched and divided into seven enclosures, with stone dykes, a garden of an acre and upwards, well stocked with fruit trees, &c., and an excellent new house, which is pleasantly situated, having a delightful view of the river Don, and lies within two miles of Aberdeen.

In a list of the members of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, in a local almanac, dated 1782, Thomas Mosman is designated "Dean of Faculty." His death is noticed in the following terms in September, 1784 :—

On Sunday, the 12th current, died at Middlefield, near this place, Mr. Thomas Mosman, advocate in Aberdeen, in the 86th year of his

age, a gentleman who, through a very long business in the practice of the law, maintained a character remarkable for the strict integrity and diligence in his profession, and in all respects that of a very honest man.

The death of Mr. Mosman's second wife is thus recorded on 19th December, 1804:—

Died at Middlefield, on Tuesday, the 11th current, Mrs. Mosman, relict of Thomas Mosman, advocate in Aberdeen.

Mr. Francis Logie, was a proprietor of Upper Middlefield to the extent of 40 acres, which he offered for sale by an advertisement in the *Aberdeen Journal*, dated the 8th February, 1790. This Mr. Logie, who was a Quaker, was married to a Miss Gordon of Cairness, by whom he had a daughter, Ann Logie, whose marriage is noticed in the *Aberdeen Journal*, dated 1st May, 1805, thus:—

Married at Middlefield, on Thursday last, Alexander Pirie, Esq., merchant in Aberdeen, to Ann Logie, daughter of the late Francis Logie, Esq.

The present Francis Logie Pirie is a great-grandson of the above Francis Logie.

Thomas Mosman was married to Elizabeth Sandilands, a great-grand-daughter of James Sandilands (first) of Craibstone, and nearly related to Sir William Johnston, who bought the lands of Hilton in 1750. By a subsequent marriage, Thomas Mosman had a daughter Isabell, who was married, in 1808, to John Lumsden, Mains of Scotston, who became proprietor of Middlefield. In 1810, John Lumsden sold Middlefield to the first Patrick Kilgour of Woodside, who died in 1830, and was succeeded by his nephew, Patrick Kilgour, who is at this date living in London. In 1849, he resigned the lands of Middlefield to the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland, which Company sold the lands of Middlefield in 1859 to Dr. George Rainy, physician, Aberdeen, and his spouse, Mrs. Jane Shand Cordiner or Rainy, for £5375 sterling. Dr. Rainy died 8th February, 1862, aged 51 years, and was succeeded by his brother, Dr. Alexander Rainy, who died about the year 1870.

On the 17th June, 1874, that portion of Middlefield which belonged to the trustees of George Kilgour of Ardconan or Balcairn (brother to the first-mentioned Patrick Kilgour) was sold to James Anderson, Esq., merchant, London, who recently purchased the estate of Hilton. The price paid by Mr. Anderson for this portion of Middlefield was £4500. This portion is thus described —"All and whole those parts and portions of the lands of Lower Middlefield and Woodside which lie upon the south side of the turnpike road leading from Aberdeen towards Inverurie, and are bounded as follows, namely—On the north by the said turnpike road; on the east by the Deer dyke, dividing the said lands from the lands of Hilton, formerly belonging to Sir William Johnston and now to the said James Anderson; and on the west by a road leading towards the lands of Hilton and past Upper Middlefield—together with Hadagain."

The larger part of Middlefield was sold on 28th October, 1874, to Robert Birss, Esq., druggist in Aberdeen, for £7150. Upper Middlefield contains about 48 imperial acres, and Lower Middlefield contains 38 acres, exclusive of the portion described above, which now belongs to Mr. Anderson of Hilton.

Lands of Cotton.

THE Estate of Cotton forms the middle and most populous portion of the Burgh of Woodside. There are at present three churches in Cotton—the Congregational Church, the Free Church (originally the Woodside Chapel of Ease), and the Parish Church. When the Chapel of Ease was erected in 1830, some objected to the name *Woodside* Chapel of Ease, because it was built on the lands of Cotton. The name "Woodside," however, was ultimately chosen for reasons which satisfied the majority of subscribers. The only industries of any note carried on in this part of the Burgh are the works of Messrs. Johnston & Fullerton, carpenters and builders, and a small factory where wincey cloth is made. The Police Station, the Post-Office, and a branch of the Town and County Bank are also situated here.

We find that on the 27th September, 1625, William Gordon of *Cottoune* was admitted a burgess of Aberdeen, along with several more of that name—among them Gordon of Cluny, who was at one time Provost of Old Aberdeen. They received the freedom of the Burgh, as we would now express it.

The following Birth Brieves are interesting as showing the connections of the Gordons of Cotton :—

BIRTH BRIEVES.

"Att Aberdein the fourt day Junij, 1668 yeirs, in presens of John Duncan, Baillie of the said Burghe,

"It wes judicially verefied and prowin, be the depositions of Mr. William Moir, doctor of phisick, and John Gordon,

burges of Aberdein, that William Gordon, somtym bailly in Old Aberdein, is the lauchfull brother german of the deceast John Gordon, captain in the King of Sueden, his army, who is reportit to haue departit this lyf in the City of Crokoe, about four yeirs agoe; which tuo brethern ar the lauchfull sons of the deceast William Gordon of *Cottoune*, procreat betuixt him and the deceast Marion Gordon his spous, who was the lauchfull dauchter of Patrick Gordon of *Gordonsmilne*, and which William Gordon ther father wes the lauchfull brother german of the deceast Sir William Gordon of Clunie, knight; all quhich they deponit to be of verity, be wertue of ther great oaths sworne. Whervpoun the Baillie ordainit ane testimoniall to be extendit in ample forme."—*Misc. Spalding Club*, vol. V., page 345.

"Att Aberdein 24th July 1695 years, in presens of John Allardes ane of the baillies of the burgh,

"The said day it was judicially verified and provn be the depositions of Alexr. Skein of Dyce; Gilbert Black lait baillie; John Moir lait baillie; Mr. James Moir of Ferrichill, that Gilbert Moir, son to the deceast Dr. William Moir of Scotstoun, now in the kingdom of Polland, who went from this about eighten yeirs agoe or therby being then about the age of yeirs or thereby is the second lawfull son of the said deceast Dr. William Moir of Scotstoun, procreat betwixt him and Margaret Skein his spous, in the lawful bond of matrimonie; and that the said deceast Mr. William Moir wes eldest lawfull son to the deceast Dr. William Moir of Scotstoun, principall and professor of mathematicks in the Colledge Marischall of Aberdeen procreat betwixt him and Jean Gordon, his lawfull spous, daughter to the deceast Gilbert Gordon of *Gordonsmill*, of the famillie of Clunie; and that the said deceast Mr. William Moir was lawfull son to the deceast Mr. William Moir of Scotstoun, procreat betwixt him and Janet Rae, his lawfull spous and that the said Margaret

Skein of Dyce, lying in the parochin of Dyce and Shirriffdom of Aberdein, procreat betwixt him and Marjorie Buchan, daughter to the deceast William Buchan of Auchmacoy, his lawfull spous, and that the said Gilbert Skein of Dyce was lawfull son to the deceast Alexr. Skein of that ilk procreat betwixt him and Elizabeth Mercer, lawfull daughter to the deceast Laurence Mercer of Clavage, of the famillie of Ædie in the parochin of and Shiriffdom of Fyfe, his spouse. All which they deponed to be of veretie, be vertue of ther great oath sworne. Whervpon the said baillie ordained ane testimoniall to be extendit in ample and due forme."—*Misc. Spalding Club.*, vol. V., page 162.

The next proprietor was James Sandilands, a member of the ancient and historical family of Sandilands. On account of their connection with Cotton and Aberdeen, we may here give a few particulars from the long and interesting genealogy of the family. The chiefs of the name were the Barons of Sandilands, who afterwards became the Barons of Calder in Midlothian, and are now represented by Lord Torphichen. After John Knox returned to Scotland, he resided mostly with Sir James Sandilands at Calder House, near Mid Calder. After referring to a petition of the Protestants to the Queen Regent, John Knox says:—"And for that purpose, after we had drawn our oration, and petition as followeth, we appointed from among us a man whose age and years deserved reverence, whose honesty and worship might have craved audience of any magistrate on earth, and whose faithful service to the authority at all times had been such that in him could fall no suspicion of unlawful disobedience. This orator was that ancient and honorable father, Sir James Sandilands of Calder, Knight, to whom we gave permission and power in all our names then present before the Queen Regent thus to speak," &c. The first of the family that came to Aberdeenshire was James, son of Patrick Sandilands, a wealthy proprietor in Edinburgh, the tenth child of James Sandilands of Middlerigg,

Midlothian. The first-mentioned James Sandilands came to Aberdeen about 1606, and some years after bought the Lands of Craibstone. He was a Doctor of Law; an Advocate before the Court of Session; a Commissary of Aberdeen; also Vice-Chancellor of King's College, where, by the appointment of Bishop Patrick Forbes of Corse, he was made Rector and Professor of Canon Law; and for many years he was Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He was deprived of this last-mentioned office in 1638, for adhering to the measures of King Charles I.

James Sandilands, the second son of the Laird of Craibstone, became proprietor of the Lands of Cotton. He was a man of great worth, learning, and eloquence; he was Town Clerk and Commissary Clerk of Aberdeen, and likewise Professor of Philosophy in King's College. When the silver keys of the city were presented by the Provost and Magistrates to King Charles II. on his arrival in Aberdeen in the year 1650, Sandilands had the honour, in the name of the community, to deliver a very eloquent and pertinent Latin oration, which impressed the King with so good an opinion of his abilities that, soon after the Restoration, his Majesty named him one of the Senators of the College of Justice; but he died at the age of fifty, upon the 17th August, 1660, a few days before the letter of the King appointing him to that dignity reached Aberdeen. He was married to Marjory Burnett of Countesswells, with whom he got a fortune of 100,000 merks. His eldest son Patrick succeeded him as laird of Cotton. His second son, John Sandilands of Countesswells, was Provost of Aberdeen in 1690.

In the Poll Book of Aberdeenshire, dated 1696, we find the following entry :—

"MR. PATRICK SANDILANDS OF COTTON:
HIS FAMILY.

His valued rent being as said is £293 6s. 8d. his poll with the general poll for himself his lady and eight children *in*

familia, Patrick, William, George, Jean, Rachel, and Magdelan Sandilands, Marjory Davidson his daughter-in-law, and Gilbert Black, his grandchild is £12. John Smith his servant fee £20, fortieth part and general poll is 16s., Thomas Massie and George Hird, the like fee and poll each £1 12s., Janet Benzie 16 merks fortieth part, and general poll is 11s. 4d., Agnes Davidson and Mary Geddes the like fee and poll each £1 2s. 8d."

The above-mentioned Patrick Sandilands (second) of Cotton, whose residence is supposed to have been somewhere about Gordon's Mills, was the first to introduce into Aberdeen the manufacture of paper. About the year 1696 he constructed a mill at Gordon's Mills, and manufactured paper of all sorts for several years.

Patrick Sandilands married Margaret Ord, daughter of William Ord of Carnbee, by whom he had, besides several daughters, three sons—Patrick, William, and George. The two eldest died without issue, and George, who became heir to his father, went to Bordeaux, in France, where he settled as a wine factor.

George Sandilands (third) of Cotton sold the lands of Gordon's Mills in 1748 to Mr. Middleton of Seaton. He also sold the Lands of Cotton to Mr. John Middleton of Seaton.

Jacob Sandilands, the only son of the said George Sandilands, sold the lands of Old Cruives (now Woodside), to Patrick Barron. It is stated in a genealogical record of the family of Sandilands that both Cotton and Old Cruives (Woodside) were sold under half their value.

The following is a copy of a letter from Robert Sandilands, Esq., the representative of the family of Craibstone, to Jacob Sandilands, Esq., of Bordeaux, which we here insert because it contains some interesting facts in connection with our Annals :—

"ABERDEEN, *5th July*, 1772.

"Dear Sir,

"I had the pleasure of the 24th past. Your other friends as well as I are much disappointed that you

cannot see us at this time; but live in hope that you will sooner or later take up your abode in Scotland.

"I have at last got signed, and now send you enclosed the certificate of your noblesse with notarial copies of James Sandilands, afterwards of Craibstone's, contract of marriage, 1606, and of James Sandilands, afterwards of Cotton's, contract of marriage, 1640. There was no occasion to put these copies on stamped paper.

"The other contract you desire a copy of, to wit, your grandfather's, I cannot find: but you have enclosed an inventory of the writs which were delivered by your father to Mr. Middleton of Seaton, when he sold him the Lands of Gordon's Mill, in 1748, the 4th Article of which Charter, by Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, will prove him and his first wife, your grandmother, who was a daughter of William Ord of Carnbee.

"That you may be at no loss to distinguish the seals of the gentlemen who have signed your certificate—The Hon. Mr. Boyd, brother to the Earl of Erroll, has for a crest a hand, for supporters two squirrels; motto, *Confido*. Sir William Johnston of Johnston (of that ilk) crest, phœnix in flames; motto, *Vivo ut postea vivas:* supporters, two naked men. Mr. Moir of Scotston's crest a mort head and leg bones; motto, *Non sibi sed cunctis*. Mr. Moir of Stoneywood's crest, a Moor's head; motto, *Major opima ferat*. There was no room for the seals of Charles Moir, Stoneywood's son and heir apparent; nor for that of Captain Hugh Fraser of Powis, a worthy old gentleman, aged between 80 and 90. He is descended from the house of Lovat, and cousin to the late Lord President Forbes.

"In rummaging among your papers in Mr Mosman's hands (who is now near stone blind, but healthy and cheerful), I found what I long wished to see, a copy of the speech which was delivered to King Charles the Second in 1650 by your great-grandfather, in name of the Magistrates and community of the City of Aberdeen. It seems wrote by your uncle William [in Latin], and not so perfect as I

could wish. You may have it itself or a true copy as you incline, after I have got one for myself, &c., &c.

"I remain, &c.,

"ROBERT SANDILANDS."

The Middleton of Seaton who purchased Cotton from Mr. George Sandilands was of the family of the Earl of Middleton. George, the last Middleton of Seaton, was married to Lady Diana Grey, daughter of the Earl of Stamford, and died in 1772. Some years after this, James Jopp became laird of Cotton. He was Provost of Aberdeen from 1768 to 1770, 1772 to 1774, 1776 to 1778, 1780 to 1782, and again in 1786. Provost Jopp was a spirit merchant and also a cloth merchant, and took a leading part in the various institutions of the city. He was Provost when Dr. Samuel Johnson was presented with the freedom of the burgh—a compliment which, says Boswell, "Provost Jopp did with a very good grace."

The Jopp family, long well known in Aberdeen, came from the parish of Insch. The Provost was grand-uncle to Colonel William Jopp, at present wine merchant in Aberdeen. He died on the 7th July, 1791, aged 72 years, and was succeeded by his son James Jopp, a merchant in London, who sold the Estate of Cotton in the year 1797.

The estate, which yielded a free rental of £425, was offered for sale in eight lots, and the description is so complete that we shall give it nearly entire :—

"LOT I.—The BLEACHFIELD of GORDON'S MILLS, with the waterfalls thereof and the haill pertinents, as presently occupied by Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co. (excepting two fields under culture called *Bog Brae*) ; the WAULK MILL and LINT MILL of GORDON'S MILLS, as occupied by Charles Baird and William Innes ; COTTONWARD and the adjoining WOOD, occupied by William Hewit ; and THREE ENCLOSURES lying southward of Gordon's Mills, occupied by Alexander Duffus—comprehending altogether about 29 Scots acres.

"This lot, which is beautifully situated upon the banks of the river Don, within a mile and a-half of Aberdeen, has an ample command of water, consisting of four or five different falls, each sufficient to turn very weighty machinery, and, upon the whole, affords one of the most convenient and eligible situations for an extensive manufactory in this country.

"LOT II.—The croft called KETTLEHILLS, consisting of about 5½ acres, situated in the vicinity of the Old Town. It commands a very fine view of the bay and the adjacent country, and would be an excellent situation for a villa.

"LOT III.—DEANSLOCH and BAKER'S PARK, comprehending about 13 acres, lying in the immediate vicinity of the Old Town, and well fitted for gardens or nursery ground.

"LOT IV.—FIVE ENCLOSURES called WATSON'S PARKS and WHIN PARK, consisting of upwards of 28 acres. This land is very improvable, and would make an excellent compact farm, and as it will have access to the Canal (which is already begun to be executed), the means of improvement will be easy.

"LOT V.—TANFIELD, BAIRNSHALL, and two enclosures, occupied by Alex. Duffus, consisting of about 20 acres, lying between Lot IV. and the Hilltown Road, and bounded on the north by the road leading past Bairnshall, eastward.

"The Canal will pass through this lot, which will increase its value; and part of it may be advantageously appropriated for building houses suited for the servants of manufacturers.

"LOT VI.—All the land immediately north of the preceding lot, and west of Mr. Still's feu, consisting of about 41½ acres, bounded on the west by the Hilltown Road, and on the north by the river Don.

"This lot affords many most delightful situations for country seats, and part of it is at present out of lease. The Canal will pass through it, and those parts adjoining the Canal and Hilltown Road may be advantageously let on building leases.

"LOT VII.—The LONGLANDS, consisting of about 23 acres, as occupied by Mr. Thomson.

"LOT VIII.—A feu-duty of £39 sterling payable out of UPPER COTTON and that part of GORDON'S MILL'S occupied by Mr. Still. One-tenth of the feu-duty is payable upon the entry of an heir, and one-fourth of it upon the entry of a singular successor—as also the superiority of the above lands, and the superiority of parts of the lands of Midbeltie, affording a freehold qualification in the county."

Hugh Hutcheon, advocate in Aberdeen, purchased Lots VI. and VII. for Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., for the sum of £4000.

UPPER COTTON.

This, as the name indicates, forms the upper or higher portion of the Estate of Cotton. It is finely situated, and from its elevated position has a commanding view of the bay and town of Aberdeen.

In the year 1810, William Piric, manufacturer, Gordon's Mills, acquired a perpetual feu of the lands of Upper Cotton, as the same was sometime possessed by John Still of Millden, bounded as follows:—"By the park called Duncan's Park, now part of Tanfield, upon the north of the lands commonly called The Tails, belonging to King's College, and the Hospital or Bead House in Old Aberdeen, and by the high road leading from Old Aberdeen to Greenburn on the east, north, and south-east and west parks thereof, with the privilege of one-third of the spring well in the upper part in Duncan's Park, and the privilege of conveying the water by the ditch cast in Duncan's Park by John Still, merchant in Aberdeen, for that purpose, and into the ground hereby feued to William Pirie."

The said John Still of Millden, who had the feu of Upper Cotton, died 18th February, 1790, aged 69 years. There was an Alexander Still, a farmer in Cotton, who died 16th May, 1747, aged 58 years, whose father, John Still, a farmer in Murcar, died 25th July, 1715, aged 53 years.

As the two last-mentioned are buried in a grave adjoining the grave of John Still, who was some years in possession of Upper Cotton, we are led to suppose that they were of the same family. Mr. William Pirie died 20th July, 1835, aged 52 years.

About the year 1839, Dr. M'Donald, a retired medical officer, came to reside at Cotton Lodge. He was married to a sister of Mr. William Yeats of Auquharney, a lady of superior intelligence and great amiability of character. The Lodge was afterwards occupied by Mr. Samuel Ritchie, who was married to a daughter of the famous Captain Barclay of Ury. After Mr. Ritchie, Cotton Lodge was successively occupied by Mr. John Stewart, now of Banchory; the late Mr. John Ferguson, advocate; and now by Mr. David Littlejohn, advocate, Chief Magistrate of the Burgh of Woodside and Sheriff-Clerk of Aberdeenshire.

The Lands of Upper Cotton and Gordon's Mills belong to the family of Hay of Seaton.

Tanfield.

WE have often tried to find the reason for the name TANFIELD being given to the portion of the Burgh nearest Aberdeen, as there is no tradition even of a Tannery about the place. We think the name may be accounted for in the following extract from a conveyance by James Jopp, son of Provost Jopp, to Thomas Leys and others, dated 23rd November, 1797 :—

"Declaring the lease granted by George Middleton of Seaton to the now deceased James Raitt, TANNER in Aberdeen, over a part of the lands hereby disposed, and to which lease I acquired right by assignation from the said James Raitt's Trustees, is now extinguished, as is also the lease granted by the deceased James Jopp, my father, to Alexr. and James Wallace to said enclosures called Middlepark, to which I acquired right by assignation. But declaring that the subtacks granted by the said James Raitt and his Trustees to Wm. and James Keith, James Catto, and the Partners of Gordon's Mills Company, presently on a part of said lands of Tanfield, shall continue in force during the currency thereof."

The likelihood is that the people in the neighbourhood would call Raitt's farm the Tanner's field, and after a time Tanfield.

The following amusing paragraph from the *Aberdeen Journal* of 25th September, 1750, shows how Mr. Raitt on one occasion outwitted Reynard :—

"Yesterday morning the following ingenious stratagem, contrived by James Raitt, Tanner, for catching a Fox (who molested his Farm near Hilton), met with the designed

success. He provided a leg of beef for breakfast for his dog, which was laid in a proper place and carefully watched by the stout curr. About sun-rising the Fox put in for his share, and laid hold on the premises; when the dog suddenly fell upon him and made him relinquish his prey, and seized him by the buttocks as he jumped the ditch. A stout battle ensued, when, after several wounds on both sides, the dog killed his antagonist on the spot. N.B.—This dog Tyger is nephew to the famous 'Tyger' given by Mr. Raitt (in testimony of his loyalty) to the Duke [of Cumberland] in a present in the year 1746, and the son of Old Dublin, the Irish Bitch who fought an Irish Grenadier of Fleming's Regiment in January, 1747."

Mr. Raitt's lease of Tanfield, which appears from the conveyance granted by James Jopp to have been extinguished, was peculiar, as will be observed from the following advertisement, which appeared in the *Aberdeen Journal* on Monday, 9th February, 1778:—

"TANFIELD FARM.

"TO BE SOLD OR LET,

"That part of the Land of COTTON called TANFIELD FARM, set in Tack by the late Mr. Middleton of Seaton to the deceased James Raitt, consisting of about 44 acres of Scots measure, all highly and properly sub-divided.

"The Lease on Tanfield Farm depends upon three lives, when any of which falls the proprietor is obliged at the desire of the Tacksman to renew it and insert another life upon payment of £25 sterling (the yearly tack duty), by way of fine, and so on for ever, by which means the lease is equal to a perpetual feu.

"The Lands are little more than an English mile distant from Aberdeen, lying along the east side of the Greenburn Road, and extending from thence to the RIVER DON. They command a very delightful and extensive prospect of ABERDEEN, the OLD TOWN, the BAY, HARBOUR, and whole neighbourhood."

Tanfield, the fifth lot, was sold by James Jopp to Alexander Shand, advocate in Aberdeen, by disposition dated 23rd November, 1797, for the sum of £2300. Alexander Shand, after he purchased Tanfield, lived some time in the Mansion House, at the head of what used to be called Shand's Walk (now called Tanfield Walk). Mr. Shand was a posthumous child, son of James Shand, merchant, Aberdeen, and was born in June, 1759. His brother was the Rev. James Shand, of Marykirk. At one time he had a fine practice as an advocate, but afterwards fortune frowned upon him, and he left Aberdeen and lived some time in London, where he died. He wrote and published a treatise on "The Book of Revelation."

By decreet of sale, dated 6th March, 1823, Tanfield was sold by the creditors of Mr. Shand to James M'Innes, writer in Edinburgh. Tanfield was again sold, in 1825, by Mr. M'Innes to Archibald Brown, then residing in Princes Street, afterwards in Leopold Place, Edinburgh. It appears, however, by an explanation in the deed, that when M'Innes bought the place it was really purchased on behalf of Brown, and that for the sum of £4000 sterling. The present proprietor of Tanfield is the Rev. George Brown, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, now settled in Australia.

The middle portion of the Lands of Cotton was bought, in 1875, from the National Bank for £8000, for the purposes of Cassie's Charitable Trust. The Trustees are William Alexander, *Free Press;* George Collie, advocate; and John Comrie Thomson, Esq., advocate, Sheriff of Forfarshire. The boundary is as under :—

"All and whole those parts and portions of the Lands and Estate of Cotton and Gordon's Mills, lying to the westward of the grounds formerly feued out by George Middleton of Seaton, to John Still, merchant in Aberdeen, and to the northward of the road leading from the Hilton road eastward past Bairnshall, through the grounds feued to the

said John Still, which lands hereby disponed comprehend the enclosures called Bogbrae, the two enclosures called Middlepark, and certain parts of the Lands of Tanfield, formerly occupied by the late firm of Leys, Masson, & Co., Andrew Cowie, James Catto, and James and William Keith, and are bounded as follows, viz. :—On the south by the said road leading eastward past Bairnshall to the said John Still's ground, which road is to be kept open and patent and of its present breadth in all time coming. On the east by the foresaid grounds feued out to the said John Still, and now belonging to

from which the grounds hereby disponed are divided by a march dyke. On the north partly by the said grounds feued to the said John Still (from which the same is also divided by a march dyke) and partly by the river Don, and on the west and south by the lands of Woodside and the Hilton road, all lying within the Parish of St. Machar and Sheriffdom of Aberdeen."

Hilton.

THE Estate of Hilton, which is adjacent to the Lands of Cotton and Middlefield, was anciently known as Caponston, Capriston, and Capraston. It abounds with granite, and at an early date quarries were carried on, and from their proximity to Aberdeen had been found convenient for obtaining a supply of building material. Most of these quarries have long since been exhausted, and some of them have been filled up. Hilton, from its situation, several hundred feet above the sea level, commands an extensive view. The Mansion House, which bears the date 1729, has been recently extended and improved by Mr. Anderson, the present owner. There is a long avenue, and within the grounds there are five old quarry holes, which form excellent ponds. The Woodside Burgh School is built on this estate. The following is an account of the proprietorship for more than three hundred years :—

In the year 1561 the lands were in possession of a William Watson, and were held by him from the Bishop of Aberdeen in feu farm for a yearly payment of 5 merks and 8 pence Scots. From William they came into the hands of a Robert Watson, who, in 1582, dispones them to James Kar, who still holds them from the Bishop in manner above mentioned, but the yearly payment is now £3 10s. 8d. Scots. Alexander Forbes holds the lands in 1583, and Patrick Forbes is proprietor in 1589.

The town bought the lands in 1595 for the sum of 2500 merks Scots, receiving a feu charter from the Bishop of Aberdeen as superior.

In the year 1601 we find in the County Cess Book the name of Richard Irvine, one of the Sheriff-Deputes of Aberdeenshire, as proprietor.

In a special service of Ann Irvine, dated 24th February, 1693, she is described as "only child of Francis Irvine of Hilton, and spouse of Henry Pantoun, now of Hilton, and nearest heiress of Mr. Alexander Irvine of Hilton, her grandfather." We learn from the above that Alexander Irvine, and Francis Irvine, his son, were proprietors of Hilton, as well as Henry Pantoun, whose name we find in the Poll Book in 1696 as proprietor.

By resolution of a Head Court held in 1721 the lands were to be put up for sale by public roup, and in the following year they were sold to Dr. John Gordon, physician, for the sum of £1289 13s. 8d.

In 1735 they passed to his son Dr. James Gordon, physician, who afterwards became laird of Pitlurg. After this, Hilton came into the hands of the Johnston family, well known by two eminent members—Dr. William, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Sedan, and first Professor of Mathematics in Marischal College, and his more celebrated brother, Dr. Arthur Johnston, the famous Latinist, whose Latin translation of the Psalms is considered only second to that of George Buchanan. His mother was the Honourable Christian Forbes, daughter of the Honourable the Seventh Lord Forbes. Educated at Aberdeen University, he passed over to the Continent, where he studied medicine at Padua, and afterwards became physician to Charles I. In 1637 he was chosen Rector of King's College, and died at Oxford in 1641.

Sir William Johnston, the sixth baronet of that ilk, purchased part of the Lands of Hilton in 1750. He purchased other portions in 1764 and 1784 respectively.

This family was descended from Stiven de Johnston, who lived in the time of King David Bruce, in the fourteenth century. We pass over a long and interesting history of the Johnstons, until we come to Sir William

Johnston, who became the fifth baronet in November, 1724. He was, in 1695, apprenticed to Andrew Logie, Loanhead, advocate in Aberdeen, and admitted an advocate there in 1700. On the death of Sir John, the fourth baronet, it was found that his pecuniary affairs were very much embarrassed, and that his successor to the title was heavily involved. The liabilities, in addition to others personal to himself, reduced Sir William to bankruptcy; and Craig, the last portion of the old Caskieben property remaining in the family, was disposed of; his brothers, John and Thomas, joint tacksmen of Standing Stones, in Dyce, had also to give up possession of their farm. By his marriage with Jean, daughter of James Sandilands of Craibstone, Sir William had a large family. His son, Sir William, the sixth baronet, entered the navy when young. Having gone to London by sea, the baronet was wont to relate that he crossed the bar at the harbour of Aberdeen with only half-a-crown in his pocket. By prudent management he was able, as already mentioned, to purchase, in 1750, a portion of the Lands of Hilton for £2000. He died in London in 1794, aged 80, leaving one son, Sir William Johnston, by the second of his three wives, Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Cleland, R.N.

Sir William Johnston, the seventh baronet, was born at Hilton in 1760. He entered the army; was M.P. for Windsor from 1797 to 1802; and in 1799 became colonel, in consequence of having raised a regiment of Fencible Infantry for general service. By his second wife, only daughter of John Bacon of Frieren House, Barnet, Middlesex, Receiver of the First Fruits, London, a collateral branch of the family of Lord Bacon, he had a large family.

Sir William died, aged 84, at The Hague in 1844. He was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Sir William Bacon Johnston, the eighth baronet, who was born at Holyrood, 17th March, 1806. He entered the army when young, but, involved in his father's pecuniary liabilities,

had to sell out, and led an obscure life. He came to reside at Hilton in 1858, where he died on the 3rd August, 1865, aged 59 years, and is succeeded in the title by his son, Sir William Bacon Johnston, who was born in 1849.

Hilton was disentailed in July, 1852, and, in 1873, was sold to Mr. James Anderson, merchant in London, for £20,000. He has expended a large sum in improving the estate since he came into possession. Mr. Anderson is a brother of the late Rev. Dr. Anderson, of the Gymnasium, Old Aberdeen, and a son of the well-known Dr. Anderson, Peterhead.

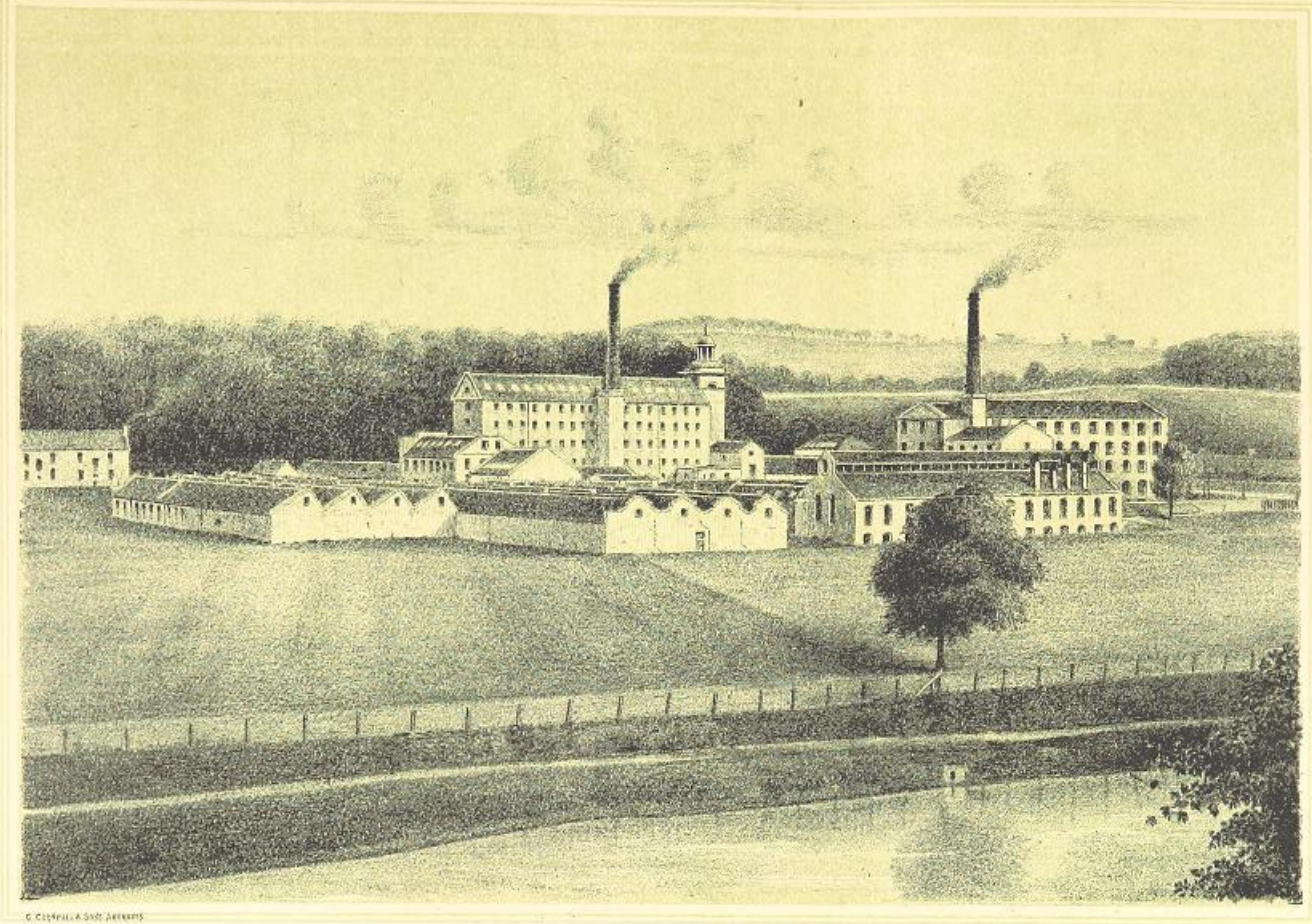
In the middle of last century the farm called Hillhead, on the Estate of Hilton, opposite Cotton Lodge, was occupied by John Warrack, father of John Warrack, foreman printer, Woodside Works, and also father of Isabella Warrack, who became the wife of Robert Milne, one of the first managers of Woodside Works. She was the mother of the first John Duguid Milne, advocate, Aberdeen, and died at the advanced age of 89 years. Her nephew Charles Warrack, is still living at Woodside, and is now in his 86th year. The late Rev. Robert Forbes, Woodside, was married to Jane Harvey, a granddaughter of Isabella Warrack, and daughter of James Harvey, manager, Grandholm Works.

Grandholm Works.

SITUATED on the north bank of the river Don, on the Haugh of Grandholm, a short distance from the Burgh of Woodside, Grandholm Works have long been known as the most important and extensive mills in the district. In the year 1749 a Company was formed for the manufacture of linen thread and cloth at Gordon's Mills, having a bleachfield attached to it, under the firm of Leys, Still, & Co., afterwards changed to Leys, Masson, & Co.

On the 20th February, 1792, Leys & Co. entered into certain arrangements with Mr. John Paton of Grandholm, and thereafter proceeded to open a canal or water-course communicating with the river Don, for the purpose of driving machinery. In cutting this canal, which extends for upwards of a mile in length, several hundreds of persons were employed for years. It was necessary for a considerable distance to cut through twenty feet of perpendicular rock. This Company at the same time laid out an extensive bleachfield, including subordinate cuts for watering the goods, and other necessary appendages, such as bleaching-houses, &c., and also erected a large edifice for a flax-spinning mill, an iron foundry, and other buildings. The articles and the formal lease for the period of ninety-nine years were recorded in the Books of Council and Session, in the month of April, 1797.

In the year 1810, the Company acquired from Mr. Paton the property of the whole subjects, rights, and privileges contained in the leases above referred to, and became liable in a high annual feu-duty, besides paying down



GRANDHOLM WORKS.

Formerly Messrs Leys, Mason & Co now Messrs J & J. Crombie.

BRITISH
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MUSEUM

£8000 sterling to account of purchase money. The bleachfield alone occupied from 70 to 80 acres. The first spinning mill was seven storeys high, and contained 386 windows. The Company also erected a wooden bridge of 150 feet span over the river Don at a cost of £1200, and made a road 40 feet wide, which crossed the Aberdeenshire Canal by a bridge. The whole establishment, previous to 1828, had cost considerably more than £100,000, and afforded employment to several thousand persons. The supply of water from the river, by means of the canal cut in 1792, was augmented in the year 1805 by a dam dyke, erected or rather completed by the Company, who availed themselves of a natural ledge of rock, which had always formed a barrier in the river at this place; but previous to erecting this dyke the following missives passed between Leys and Co. and Gordon, Barron, & Co :—

"GRANDHOLM MILLS, *5th June*, 1805.

"Messrs. Gordon, Barron, & Co.

"Sirs,

"We request your permission to put in a dam dyke at our intake from the river Don, and we hereby oblige ourselves to take away the same at your desire, and we are, &c.,

"(Signed) LEYS & Co."

"ABERDEEN, *6th June*, 1805.

"Messrs. Leys & Co.

"Sirs,

"In answer to your letter of 5th instant, we most readily agree to your putting a dam dyke in the river Don on the conditions mentioned in that letter.

"We are, &c.,

"(Signed) GORDON, BARRON, & Co."

This obligatory letter became one of the most important documents in the long and expensive litigation that commenced in 1816, and was carried on between Leys

and Co., on the one side, and the Cruive heritors, the upper heritors of the lands and fishings upon the river Don, and Gordon, Barron, & Co., on the other side, for more than twenty years. Having read over the whole case for both sides, we do not see sufficient cause for such an expensive and lengthened lawsuit. In this great strife, as in most other strifes, a little yielding might have healed the difference. We have heard it said that this water case cost Leys, Masson, & Co., £30,000.

In the year 1768, it would appear that Mr. Paton granted a lease of the lands of Upper Persley, including the Waulk Mill, to a Company under the firm of Milne, Cruden, & Co., with full power and liberty to them to lay out a bleachfield, and to erect machinery for any manufactory they might establish, to cut water-courses, and to build a jetty on the channel of the river Don.

In consequence of the death of Mr. Alexander Young of Cornhill, on 6th May, 1815, the bleachfield was given up. The remainder of the lease—for ten years—was exposed for sale, and purchased by Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., on the 20th August, 1816; and by the articles of the sale it had been agreed that possession should be given as soon as David Young, nephew and heir of Alexander Young, came to Aberdeen; but upon the 21st they applied for access to the small beating mill, for which they pretended to have immediate use, to beat flax. Their request was complied with, but it very soon appeared that their real object was extremely different from that which they held out. They secretly collected together all the barrows, pickaxes, and other tools which belonged to the Harbour Trustees and community of Aberdeen, and conveyed them under cloud of night, by a circuitous route, with a band of seventy or eighty labourers, to the lands of Persley, where they were met by another division of labourers assembled from the public roads in the neighbourhood. This multitude of workmen was set to work, about two o'clock in the morning, by Mr. Alexander Hadden, son of James Hadden, and Mr. James

Harvey, their overseer, not only to widen, deepen, and enlarge the Persley canal or water-course, but to deepen the channel of the river itself immediately opposite the intake of the water-course. Instead of using the small mill for beating flax, they removed and destroyed the sluices and water wheel, and everything which could afford the means (in case of future challenge) of ascertaining the precise quantity of water formerly carried off in that direction.

They had already made considerable progress in these operations, when they were joined, as the morning advanced, by Mr. James Hadden, of Messrs. Leys, Masson, and Co., who continued to encourage and direct them to proceed with as much despatch as possible, having people stationed on eminences to signal the approach of a sheriff officer, as he was perfectly aware that an interdict would be applied for and granted by the Sheriff as soon as Gordon, Barron, & Co., should discover what was going on. Before any application, however, of the kind could be made, they had succeeded in excavating a channel sufficiently wide and deep to carry off at the very least six times the quantity of water formerly conveyed by the intake to the lands of Persley.

The heritors and Messrs. Gordon, Barron, & Co., applied for and obtained from the Sheriff an interdict, which sometime after was declared absolute. The Messrs. Hadden, after finding themselves stopped working at this intake, proceeded to widen and enlarge the water-course which had been employed for the bleachfield in Persley. As this would have had precisely the same effect with their attempted operation at the intake, the heritors applied for a second interdict, which they obtained, generally prohibiting Messrs. Hadden from any act or deed whatever affecting any of the canals or inlets on the grounds of Persley.

At a later stage the heritors and Messrs. Gordon, Barron, & Co., requested Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., to remove the dam dyke opposite their intake, founding their

title to make this request on the obligatory letter, dated 5th June, 1805, already quoted. The war then became very hot between the parties interested. We quote from a report by John Innes, land surveyor in Aberdeen, to the Lords of Council and Session :—

"I beg now to report that the river, having become very low within these few days past, I have been enabled of this date, 7th May, 1817, to ascertain, as nearly as may be, the quantity of water flowing therein, which I found to be as follows, viz. :—

	Hogsheads per minute.
Flowing through the Printfield Canal, G., B., & Co. -	1336
Do. Slap - - - - - - -	212
Do. Persley Canal, Leys & Co. -	520
Oozing through the dyke, supposed - - -	2
Total Hogsheads, wine measure - - - -	2070

"Which is humbly reported by

"JOHN INNES, Land Surveyor.

"Aberdeen, *8th May*, 1817."

The plea urged by the heritors was an alleged injury caused to the Don fishings by the canal cut by Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., and the obligatory letter of Leys & Co. to Gordon, Barron, & Co., was made use of in the case. The Grandholm Company, on the other side, urged as a plea, tolerance, silence, and acquiescence on the part of the proprietors of the Don fishings and Gordon, Barron, & Co., for more than twenty years, which had induced Leys, Masson, and Co., to expend their whole capital in erecting buildings on the lands of Grandholm, for the manufacture of flax, with bleachfield, and cutting a canal for the use of the same.

In the Second Division of the Court of Session, Wednesday, 28th February, 1827, Lord Pitmilly said :—"Where a person is acting on his own property, acquiescence will do ; where he is not acting on his own property, homologation is necessary. There is a third class of cases ; it lies between the two former. It is where the act complained of is done

on a running stream, a property not belonging to either party, but over which both have a certain degree of right. It has been found in a great variety of cases of this class that acquiescence bars challenge, and homologation is not necessary."

Lord Justice-Clerk (Miller) quotes from Lord Braxfield the following :—"Where works are erected under the eye of the party entitled to challenge, and without objection, his consent is presumed, and justice will not suffer him afterwards to resile to the other's prejudice."

Several of the heritors denied having any such knowledge of the cutting of the canal for Grandholm Works, such as Lord Forbes, Mr. Farquharson of Haughton, Gordon of Manar, Sir John Forbes of Fintray, &c.

Lord Alloway said :—"In every view I take of this case, I consider it the most important that ever was before the Court as to the commercial interests of this country."

We find it impossible in our limited space to give a full account of this unfortunate litigation regarding the canals of Leys, Masson, & Co. Although both parties were successful at different stages of the case, we believe that ultimately the case was quietly settled by compromise. The following is a statement of the water-power at Grandholm Works while the litigation was going on :—

	Horse-power.
"Two old wheels in Mill, ...	80
"Wheel at Foundry, ...	15
"Wheel at Bleaching Works, ...	22
	117
"The new wheels at Mill erected since 1805, . .	43
	160

"If steam-power were to be substituted for this water-power, it would cost annually £31 10s. per horse-power = £5040.

"(Signed) ALEXR. COOPER, Manager.

"Grandholm Works, 18 *January*, 1826."

To show the gradual growth of these Works we give the following abstract of expenditure by Leys, Masson, and Co., on machinery, &c., connected therewith, from 1805 to 1820 :—

1805, ...	£3,554	16	11
1806, ...	8,707	4	5½
1807, ...	4,709	9	9
1808, ...	3,277	8	2½
1809, ...	2,557	3	7
1810, ...	3,329	16	11½
1811, ...	7,341	9	2½
1812, ...	7,774	0	8
1813, ...	2,731	13	4½
1814, ...	707	7	2½
1815, ...	815	6	6
1816, ...	1,363	6	2
1817, ...	2,345	5	10
1818, ...	3,009	3	0
1819, ...	6,135	4	0½
1820, ...	4,236	0	4
	£62,594	16	2½

—*Extracted from Leys, Masson, & Co.'s books, Aberdeen, 17th January*, 1826.

Of this sum, £29,655 10s. was expended in various additions to the Spinning Mill ; £16,441 5s. 10d. on the Bleachfield and the works connected with the process of bleaching ; and the balance of the above sum was laid out on the Foundry and other departments of the establishment. But in addition to all this, several thousand pounds were expended on other improvements before October, 1821.

The Works continued to grow after 1820, and by the time they had reached their full extent, considerably more than £100,000 had been expended on that splendid plant, which then presented to the eye one of the finest views of the kind in Scotland. But a canker was at the root of this apparently prosperous firm, which had given employment to many thousands of both sexes for many years, and the collapse, which was altogether unexpected by the workers,

came suddenly upon them in 1848, without the usual signs that, as a rule, precede such calamities. To the great dismay and grief of the whole inhabitants of the village and neighbourhood, the evil tidings came that Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., had become hopelessly bankrupt, and that Grandholm Works were to be closed.

Young people could bear such news by the thought that, after all, this might be a favourable turning point in their history, which, we believe, in many cases it was ; but many of the hands had grown old in the service, and what were they to do ? Old age is often treated as if it were a crime, and except where experience at a particular kind of work becomes valuable enough to compensate for failing strength, there is little consideration shown. There was helpful sympathy, however, manifested by the citizens of Aberdeen and neighbourhood. We recollect being present at a public meeting on the occasion, in one of the churches in Woodside, where Mr. Irvine Kempt, of Woodside Works, delivered a calm, touching speech of rare excellence, suitable to the circumstances of the place at that time.

Grandholm Works had had a fair start, with Thomas Leys of Glasgoforest, Alexander Brebner of Learney, his brother-in-law, and James Hadden, as partners of the firm. The two first mentioned were men of considerable substance, and all three were men of ability and force of character. Each in his time held the office of Lord Provost of Aberdeen. James Masson, who was afterwards taken into partnership, was at one time a town councillor. In process of time the whole burden of the concern was undertaken by James Hadden and his sons, Alexander, Thomas, and John, but it proved to be more than they were able to bear. Provost James Hadden was unfortunate in his political and legal contests, and as the business was somewhat over-weighted, it required only a few turns of severe depression of trade to complete the financial embarrassment under which the firm had been long struggling. But whatever expenditure there might have been outside

the Works, there was great care and economy inside. Mr. Thomas Hadden, on whom lay chiefly the management for many years, spared no pains to prevent every unnecessary expenditure, and he was also most industrious and economical in his habits—a sensible, unassuming, worthy gentleman. The managers of the different departments were Alexander Cooper, James Harvey, Gerrard Byrne, and his son, Alexander C. Byrne—all very capable men.

We find the following obituary notice of Mr. Alex. Cooper in the *Aberdeen Journal*:—

"In the important station which Mr. Cooper occupied during a long course of years, as the manager of a great establishment, he was distinguished for accurate, enlarged, and sagacious views of men and things, and for an ardent love of justice, the most scrupulous integrity and honour, and a rare and enlightened philanthropy. In the intimacies of the social circle he ever delighted his friends by a vein of inoffensive pleasantry, and instructed them by his varied and minute information.

"The crowning excellence of his character was the unassuming but decided piety, which led him, in the best of senses, to do good to all men as he had opportunity; and which, perhaps, shone forth more conspicuously in his latter years, when he performed the functions of an office-bearer of the church. Faithful to those who employed him, and kind to those who served him, just and generous in his transactions with all, it will be long ere the memory of Mr. Cooper pass away."

Mr. Cooper died on Saturday, 8th September, 1838, aged 66 years.

Provost Thomas Leys, the first and most eminent partner in the firm of Leys, Masson, & Co., was Convener of the County, and the chief promoter of those city improvements in Aberdeen which resulted in the construction of Union Bridge, Union Street, and King Street. On the 7th

July, 1801, the foundation-stone of Union Bridge was laid in presence of a vast assembly, and the following was read on that occasion, as part of the inscription which was deposited in the foundation-stone, by John Dingwall, Esq., of Ardo, Lord Provost of Aberdeen :—

"This great and useful work was begun under the auspices and forwarded by the zeal, and brought to maturity by the unremitting perseverance of Thomas Leys, Esq., of Glasgoforest, late Provost of the same city."

These sentiments were heartily endorsed by Mr. Allardyce, M.P. for the City, and by Provost Dingwall, in their speeches on the same occasion.

James Hadden succeeded Provost Dingwall in the civic chair near the close of this same year (1801), which position he held for a considerable period. He was the son of Alexander Hadden, an extensive stocking merchant in the Green, and founder of the firm of Alexander Hadden and Sons, woollen manufacturers in Aberdeen, and at Gordon's Mills, and Garlogie, Skene.

Provost Thomas Leys of Glasgoforest, Convener of the County of Aberdeen, died 24th October, 1809, aged 45 years.

Provost Alexander Brebner died 28th February, 1823, aged 70 years.

Provost James Hadden, died 8th June, 1845, aged 87 years.

Alexander Hadden, son of above, died 4th December, 1866, aged 76 years.

Grandholm Works were again started in July, 1850, by Timothy Abraham Curtis and Alexander Hadden, under the firm of Leys, Masson, & Co. Mr. Hugh Sutherland, an energetic mechanic, was appointed manager, but after the brief period of four years the works were again stopped, and the machinery sold off. This splendid plant was purchased in the year 1859 by the Messrs. J. & J.

Crombie, who had successfully carried on the woollen works at Cothal Mills, situated eight miles from Aberdeen, in the parish of Fintray, since the year 1805, under the firm of Crombie, Knowles, & Co. The Messrs. Crombie have considerably enlarged Grandholm Works, and carry on a very extensive home and foreign trade, giving employment to nearly 1000 hands, and are famed for turning out a quality and style of tweeds and other cloths which cannot be surpassed.

THE HADDEN FAMILY.

The following account of the Hadden family was published many years ago by a Mr. Tough, who had been long in their service :—

"The late Alexander Hadden, sometime one of the magistrates of Aberdeen, was the son of Alexander Hadden, customer weaver, who lived in a small house in the Green near the Bow Bridge. When he was come of age he was put apprentice to Mr. Brebner of Learney, then in the wood and iron trade. At the expiry of his apprenticeship, he left Mr. Brebner, and having nothing to do, he resolved to go south to look out for a situation. On going a little way he bethought himself on the old way of throwing the staff, when the head fell to Aberdeen, and he thereupon returned home. Being acquainted with old James Young, who lived in the Bulwark, who was doing a little in the hosiery trade, he was advised by him to try and do a little in that way. His father being but a poor man could advance him nothing to begin with, but he borrowed five or six pounds from an old neighbour woman, with which he started business for himself in the year 1747. His first travel in the way of business on his own account was to Stonehaven, at the Candlemas Market, where he got only two pairs of hose, as old Baillie Dingwall (who began about the same time) had bought up all in the market before his arrival.

"His next travel was to Upper Banchory, at Midlentren Market, when he cut out Baillie Dingwall. Afterwards, as

was the usual practice at that period, Mr. Hadden was regularly found at the Bow Bridge on the Fridays, along with the other hose merchants, where he soon became favourably known to the country people who brought their goods to that market as an honourable and punctual dealer in the hose trade. It was also about this time that he first employed wool combers on his own account, but he still continued to give out his wool to spin, and knit, and also purchase hose wherever he could get them. Fortune still continuing to favour him, he was, in order to extend his business, induced to enter into partnership with Mr. John Farquhar, and the concern was now carried on under the firm of Hadden & Farquhar, which firm was long honourably known in Holland, as their principal business was in the Dutch market. Mr. Hadden shortly after this period married Elspet Young, and Mr. Farquhar married her sister Rachel. They were daughters of his old friend James Young, and sisters of the late Provost William Young. Both families took up their residence in the house in the upper end of that close, now used as a blacksmith's and turner's shop in the Green, where Mr. Farquhar had three children born to him, namely :—James, late M.P. ; William, and Rachel. Soon after he died, regretted by all who knew him. Mr. Hadden had eight children born to him in the same house, viz. :—James, John, Alexander, Isabell, Gavin, David, George, and Elizabeth. The four eldest sons married four daughters of the late Commissary Innes of Cowie and Breda. David went to New York and married an American lady, George married his cousin Miss Young, Isabella married the Rev. Mr. Doig, and Elizabeth married her cousin William Farquhar ; they had all issue but Isabell.

" The late Provost James Hadden and his wife Elizabeth Innes had five sons and three daughters, viz. :—Alexander, James, Thomas Leys, and two sons named John ; one died in infancy. James married Miss Hogarth, daughter of the late George Hogarth, merchant in Aberdeen, and Thomas

Leys married his cousin Miss Hadden ; Alexander was never married ; one of the daughters was married to the late Colonel Lindsay, of the 78th Highlanders ; another was married to Captain Macintyre ; and the third was united to Mr. Forbes Robertson of Hazlehead.

"James and Gavin Hadden learned the hosiery business under the superintendence of their father, old Baillie Hadden, who died in 1793, aged 73 years. He was a good man, a kind master, and much regretted at the time of his death by the whole community.

"After his death, James, through the friendship of the late Provost Leys, was admitted a partner of the firm of Messrs. Leys, Masson, & Co., and soon got the management of the establishment. On the death of Provost Brebner, Provost James Hadden became proprietor of the whole Works at Grandholm.

"Provost James Hadden died in 1845, aged 87 years, having served his day with honour and fidelity. He was four times elected to the office of Chief Magistrate of his native city, and was one of the principal promoters of the great improvements carried on during the last 60 years."

Gordon's Mills.

THE haugh of Gordon's Mills lies close by the river Don, and is thus plentifully supplied with water; and also, from the considerable fall of the Don here, water-power for driving machinery can easily be obtained. With these natural advantages, it is not to be wondered at that the attention of bleachers and manufacturers was early attracted to this place.

The manufacture of paper was first introduced into Aberdeen, about the year 1696, by Patrick Sandilands of Cotton, who constructed a mill at Gordon's Mills, where he manufactured paper of all sorts for several years. In the year 1703 a cloth manufactory was in full operation at Gordon's Mills. It produced broadcloths, druggets, and stuffs of all sorts, perhaps as good, of the kind, as any that have been wrought in the kingdom. Mr. Black, the manager, had French workmen for the whitening and scouring of his cloth. Amongst his produce were half-silk serges, damasks, and plush made of wool. The magistrates, as trustees of a fund which had been destined by a Robert Johnston, for the employment of the poor, entered into a formal contract of co-partnery in 1703, along with the Hon. Mr. Keith, son of William, Earl Marischal, Robert Barclay of Ury, and seven citizens of Aberdeen, for the purpose of commencing the manufacture of woollen goods upon an enlarged scale. The capital stock subscribed for was £600.

About the year 1749, some of the leading citizens of Aberdeen established a Company for conducting, upon a larger basis, the manufacture of linen thread,

and cloth, and a bleaching work, under the firm of Messrs. Leys, Still, & Co. About 42 years afterwards, they obtained a lease of Grandholm haugh, where they erected a flax-spinning mill, &c.; and not long after this, the name of the firm was changed to Leys, Masson, & Co. On the 20th of January, 1756, the Gordon's Mills Company advertise that they have enlarged their Bleachfield, and reduced their charges, also that—

"Attendance will be given by John Still, and James Masson, the Company's clerk, from 8 morning till 8 at night.

"Commissions to be addressed to Leys, Still, & Co.

"The said Company continue to manufacture and sell at their Warehouse at the Head of the Green, Aberdeen, Scots Hollands from 1s. 6d. to 5s. per yard; Cambrics from 2s. 10d. to 5s. per yard; Lawn Handkerchiefs from 16s. to 24s. per dozen, &c., &c.; and they continue to dye linen yarn, &c., and to Cylinder all kinds of linen and cotton goods in the Hot and Cold way."

The Leys of Leys, Still, & Co., we take to be Baillie Francis Leys of Glasgoforest, whom Thomas Leys succeeded in this business, and in the estate of Glasgoforest. Provost Thomas Leys was not born till some years after this date.

Copy of an Advertisement, dated 14th March, 1749:—

"William Heaney from Ireland has made a new Bleachfield at Gordon's Mills, on the water of Don, and proposes to lay down cloth against the 20th if the season permit."

[Prices are given.]

"He likewise bleaches linen yarns to the greatest perfection at 6d. per spyndle.

"Cloth and yarn taken in by Thos. Gammick, Broadgate, Aberdeen, and Alexr. Ross, merchant, Old Aberdeen."

Copy of Advertisement, dated 20th September, 1762 :—

"William Innes and Company, Lintdressers in Aberdeen, have now finished their Lint Mill at Gordon's Mills. The Beating Mill is at work sometime ago and gives general satisfaction. Likewise, the Scutching Mill is ready and well-finished off. So that those who have Scotch flax to clean may depend on having their Lint well and carefully done, as one of the Company was taught by the Trustees at Scutching Mills, &c. Their prices will be as reasonable as any in that way."

The Gordon's Mill Bleachfield Company again advertise, 15th January, 1762 :—

"Cloth taken in by Patrick Logie at Miln of Stonehaven, &c. They sell at the same place coarse blue Tow at 9/- ; first do. at 18/6 ; second do. at 28/- ; third do. at 31/6 per 112 lb.

"The Company also continue to give out flax of all kinds to spin, and give good encouragement to spinners and weavers.

"Commissions to Leys, Still, & Co., will be carefully obeyed."

Another advertisement by the same Company appears on 7th March, 1791. Applications to be made to Leys, Masson, & Co.

In the year 1809, a lease was granted to Alexander Gibbon, William Pirie, and Patrick Pirie, "of the malt mill, with the lint mill," as sometime possessed by Charles Baird, and afterwards by Masson, Baird, & Co., at Gordon's Mills, (entry to the mill Whitsunday, 1810). The premises were let to William Pirie & Company, for the purpose of a wool-carding mill, for 60 years, which lease was, on the 9th March, 1820, prorogued 59 years—that is till 1929. This mill, which was carried on by them for a number of years, was afterwards taken over by Messrs. Alexander Hadden and Sons, who are now in possession.

We find from a decreet of valuation at the instance of James Forbes of Seaton, dated 21st February, 1821, that Milne, Cruden, & Co., which then consisted of Alexander Pirie (first of Stoneywood), Alexander Bannerman (afterwards M.P.), George Sangster, and William Reid, had a lease of the flax-spinning mill, waterfalls, and bleach field at Gordon's Mills, which was for 76 years from Whitsunday, 1816. This mill was carried on until the year 1854 in connection with Spring Garden Works, Aberdeen, belonging also to Milne, Cruden, & Co., at which date both these works were closed.

It would be tedious to give a history of the various changes in the partnership in the firm of Milne, Cruden, and Co. Suffice it to say that Patrick Pirie, jun. (son of the above Alex. Pirie of Stoneywood), the chief and active partner of the firm for many years previous to its termination, was a man of most gentlemanly bearing, possessed of considerable ability, and of quick perception. He was a compeer of another well-known gentleman, now retired, who was for nearly forty years managing partner of the firm of Richards and Co., Broadford Works (in the immediate vicinity of Spring Garden Works, and carrying on the same trade)—Mr. Frederic Holland, son of Colonel Lancelot Holland, and grandson of Mr. Peters, of the once well-known firm of Messrs. Peters & Masterman, bankers, London. Mr. Pirie and Mr. Holland both stood out pre-eminent for their high qualities of head and heart, and were greatly beloved by the thousands of workers in their employment, as well as throughout the city of Aberdeen. At the time of the stoppage of Grandholm and Woodside Works, in 1848 and 1850, Mr. Holland very considerately found employment at Broadford Works for as many as he possibly could. This was only in keeping with his general benevolence and goodness of heart, which never failed to impress all with whom he was connected. Mr. Pirie assumed the name of Patrick Pirie-Gordon after he acquired the Lands of Buthlaw, parish of Longside, which formerly belonged to an

ancestor, General Gordon of Cairness. Mr. Pirie-Gordon's is the oldest name on the present list of life managers of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary

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The following is a list of Charters, with dates, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills :—

"Charter by William, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of John Gordon, whom failing, Alexander Gordon, whom failing, William Gordon, dated 30th September, 1557, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Crown Charter of Confirmation in favour of John Gordon, dated 18th May, 1585, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Crown Charter of Confirmation in favour of Alexander Cullen, dated 8th February, 1591, following on Charter by Alexander Cullen, Provost, in favour of his son, Alexander Cullen, dated 30th November, 1590, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Charter by Thomas Gordon, in favour of Patrick Gordon, dated 12th November, 1601.

"Charter by Peter, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of the said Patrick Gordon, dated 18th January, 1603, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Transumpt Charter by the said Patrick Gordon, in favour of Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, dated 17th July, 1609, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Charter of Novodamus by Peter, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of Patrick Gordon, dated 17th July, 1609, of the Lands of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.

"Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of William Moir, dated 24th June, 1633, of the Lands of Gordon's Mills.

"Charter by the said William Moir in favour of John Johnston, dated 27th January, 1636, of the Lands of Gordon's Mills.

"Precept of Clare Constat, by Alexander, Bishop of Aberdeen, with consent of the Dean and Chapter, in favour of Patrick Sandilands, as heir to James Sandilands, his father, of the Lands of Cotton, dated 1663.

"Disposition of Lands of Gordon's Mills by Robert Irvine, in favour of George Cruickshank, Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, and his successors in office, dated 5th April, 1664.

"Charter of Adjudication, and in implement of the said R. Irvine's Disposition, by Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of John Smith, Dean of Guild, dated 11th June, 1666.

"Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, in favour of Patrick Sandilands and his spouse, dated 13th October, 1680. (Waulk Mill excepted).

"Disposition by the Master of Mortifications in favour of the said Patrick Sandilands of the Waulk Mill, dated 17th June, 1684.

"Disposition by the said Patrick Sandilands in favour of his son, George Sandilands, dated 21st February, 1717.

"Disposition of the said George Sandilands in favour of Colonel John Middleton, of the Lands of Cotton, dated 16th April, 1723.

"Disposition by the said Colonel John Middleton, in favour of himself in life rent, and George Middleton, his son, in fee, dated 8th February, 1727.

"Disposition by George Sandilands of the Lands of Gordon's Mills, in favour of George Middleton, dated 23rd February, 1748.

"Disposition by George Middleton in favour of his spouse, Lady Diana Middleton, dated 26th March, 1768.

"Disposition by Lady Diana Middleton in favour of James Jopp, dated 23rd December, 1776.

"Charter by George Middleton in favour of John Still, merchant in Aberdeen, dated 6th October, 1760. (Upper Cotton.)

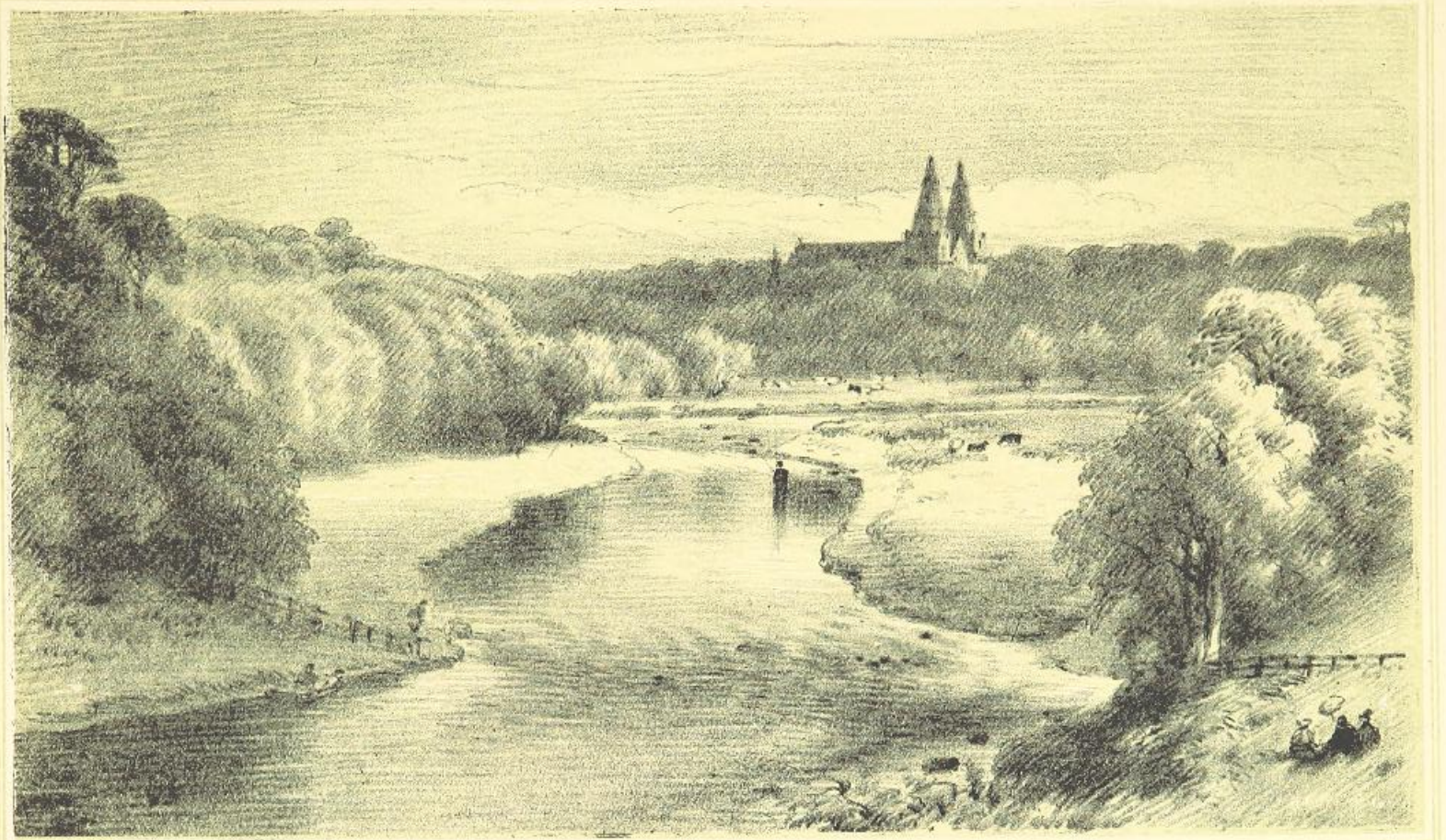
"Charter by George Middleton in favour of John Still, dated 14th November, 1771. (Part of Gordon's Mills.)

"Disposition by the said John Still in favour of John Still, his second son, dated 9th August, 1787.

"Charter of Resignation by James Jopp, Superior, in favour of the said John Still, dated 19th September, 1792 (both Upper Cotton and part of Gordon's Mills).

"Disposition by the said John Still in favour of James Forbes of Seaton, dated 7th April, 1800."

Some extracts from these Charters would, no doubt, be interesting, but those noted sufficiently indicate the various changes in the proprietorship of Cotton and Gordon's Mills.



John Mitchell, Delt. et Lith.

G.Cornwall & Sons, Lith. Aberdeen.

St. Machar Cathedral,

on the Don.

From a painting in the possession of John Duncan Junr Esq. Advocate.

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New Inverurie Road and the Aberdeenshire Canal.

THE new Inverurie Road was opened in the year 1800, and on the line of this road the houses in Woodside are mostly built. The old road, from about where the Board School now stands, was ploughed up all the way down to near Hadagain. Before the new road was made, the Hadagain inn and smithy were on the old road, on the site where the lodge leading to Woodside House now stands. A few of the old houses still remain, facing the line of the old road.

The Aberdeenshire Canal was projected in the year 1793 by several public-spirited gentlemen connected with the town and county of Aberdeen. In the year 1795, a fund was raised by subscription in shares of £50 each. An Act of Parliament was obtained constituting the subscribers into a Company, authorising the construction of the Canal, and the raising of the necessary funds for the purpose. The funds raised at first were not adequate to the expense of the undertaking, and, in the year 1801, another Act was obtained, authorising a further creation of stock. By means of the amount thus secured, and a sum of £10,000 raised on mortgage, the Canal was at length completed, and was opened in 1807. The length of the Canal from the Aberdeen Harbour to Port-Elphinstone was 18¼ miles, its breadth was 24 feet, and its depth nearly 4 feet. Its highest level was at Stoneywood, where it reached 168 feet above low-water mark. The principal works constructed upon it were 17 locks, each of which raised the navigation about 10 feet, and were 57 feet in length between the gates; 5 aqueduct bridges, over considerable streams of water;

56 accommodation bridges, and 20 culverts for conducting small streams and surface water from the high grounds under the Canal.

It is stated that the annual weight of goods carried on the Canal was about 20,000 tons. The original cost of the construction of the Canal was £37,000, but, in 1834, other £1500 was expended on the construction of a tide-lock, connecting the Canal with the Harbour at Aberdeen, and other items were laid out which, together, made the entire cost of formation about £50,000. The revenue during the last years of its existence reached to about £3000. It passed through the Village of Woodside, and was a great convenience to the inhabitants, and a luxury to the boys for bathing in summer and skating in winter. The Canal was closed on the passing of the Act, in 1854, authorising the Great North of Scotland Railway Company to proceed with their undertaking. The Railway Company gave £1000 as compensation for depriving the inhabitants of Woodside of the privilege of the Canal, and to assist in obtaining a supply of water from other sources.

The following is an extract from "Northern Rural Life," by Mr. William Alexander, *Free Press* :—

"In the month of June, 1805, when the Inverurie Turnpike had been in use five years, an alternative medium of communication between Aberdeen and that Royal Burgh was established by the opening of the Aberdeenshire Canal, which, at the time of its construction, was considered rather a stupendous work. On the opening day the Committee of Management 'embarked' at the Inverurie basin (named Port-Elphinstone in honour of a leading promoter) in a a barge 'handsomely decorated.' They carried a gun at the prow of the barge to signal their approach to the delighted crowds, who had assembled at different points to witness the accomplished triumph of inland navigation ; and their gaily decked vessel, 'The Countess of Kintore,' with its living freight, having completed the voyage of fifteen

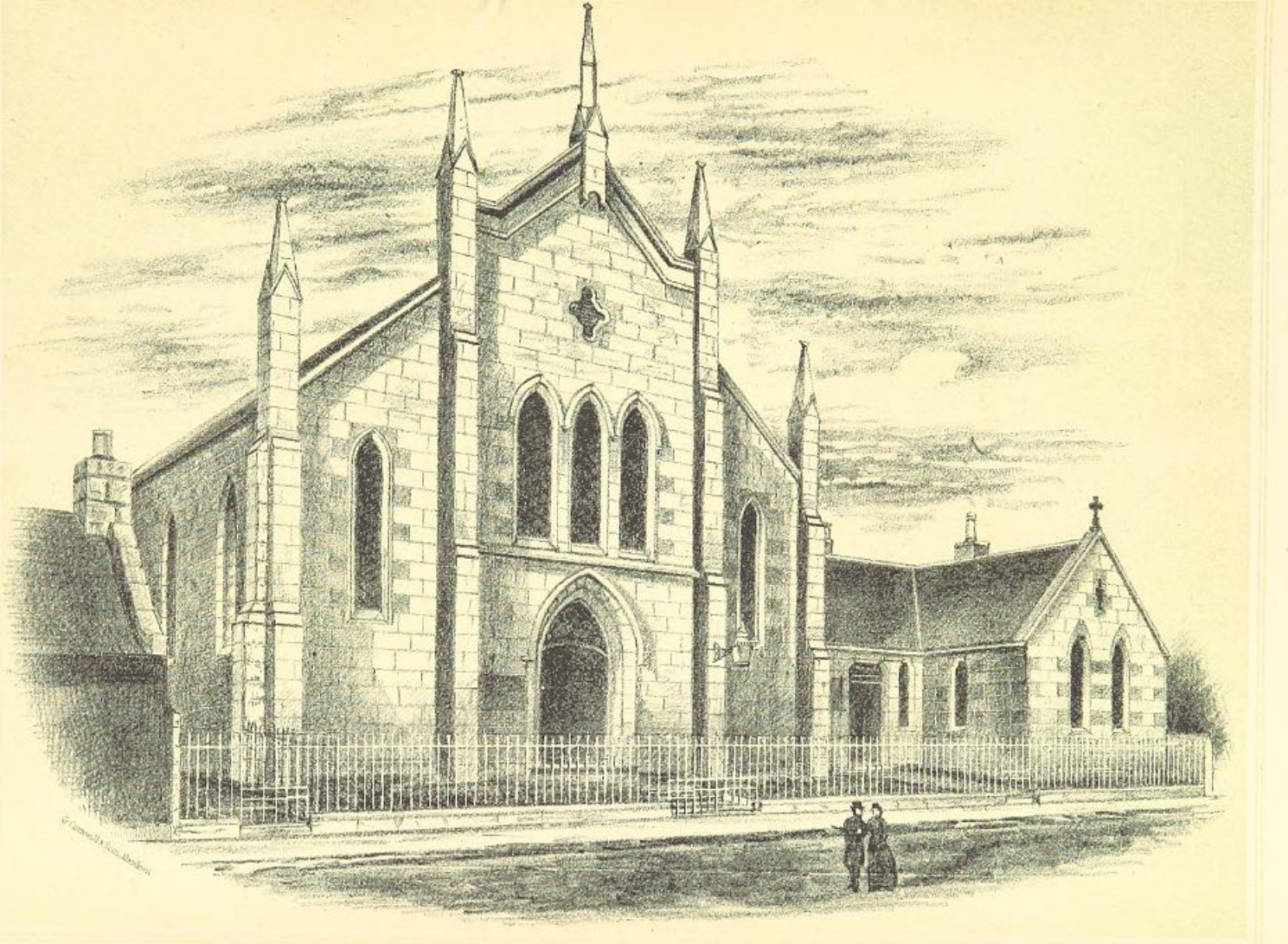
miles* in seven and a-half hours, was, amid general jubilation, safely moored at the basin at Aberdeen Quay. Two miles an hour might do for heavy goods ; but it was clear that a speed considerably less than the normal walking pace was inadequate for passenger traffic ; and thus, in the summer of 1807, we find a passenger boat, 'covered and neatly fitted-up for the purpose of conveying passengers and light goods' set agoing. It returned to Aberdeen the same day as it left, but did not at first ply every day. The fare was two shillings to Inverurie, and twopence per mile for intermediate distances."

* The distance from Aberdeen to Port-Elphinstone by the turnpike road is 15 miles, while the length of the Canal was 18¼ miles.

Churches in Woodside.

PREVIOUS to the year 1819 there was no church in the Village of Woodside. Wesleyan Methodists from Aberdeen frequently held religious services in the sunk floor of the large house known as the Laird's New House; but after a time they lost favour, and excited prejudice by bringing out a female to address meetings. The Rev. Richard Penman, Frederick Street Congregational Chapel, Aberdeen, and the Rev. Mr. Philip (afterwards Dr. Philip, the well-known African missionary), took a kindly interest in the place, and for some time a religious service was held every Tuesday evening, which was well attended. On the recommendation of Mr. Penman, an effort was successfully made to raise a fund sufficient to build a regular place of worship. In the year 1819, a small church, known as Cotton Chapel, was built on the site of the present Congregational Chapel, but not attached to any particular denomination; it soon became, however, the property of the Congregationalists. The Rev. James Spence officiated statedly for some time. He was an able and popular preacher, a man of keen intellect and a great controversalist, and was called in 1820 to the pastorate of Blackfriars Street Chapel, Aberdeen.

The Rev. Neil M'Kechnie succeeded Mr. Spence in Cotton Chapel, and in 1822 a regular congregation was formed. Mr. M'Kechnie continued to labour at Woodside with a fair amount of success until the year 1838, when he left, and was engaged as an itinerant missionary in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff. His labours in that sphere were much blessed. He continued in the work for three



WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

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years, and in 1841 accepted a call from Stewartfield Church, where he laboured for ten years. On a Sabbath morning in December, 1851, he entered into his eternal rest. His end was sudden, he having been found in his chamber with life quite extinct.

Mr. M'Kechnie was followed in succession at Woodside by the Rev. Messrs. Laing, Strachan, Robertson, Rae, and Saunders, the present worthy incumbent. This congregation was stimulated in its early times by Mr. John Barker, then at Grandholm Works ; Mr. James Rust, merchant; and Mr. George Maitland, a worthy Christian man, and a model office-bearer. Our early recollections of George Maitland are most pleasant and favourable to his character. George was a devout man, and embraced every opportunity of doing good, speaking a word in season to young and old. He had a great knowledge of his Bible, and a good general knowledge of theological questions. We well remember, when only in childhood, being impressed with the fluency and fervency of his prayers. We also remember the evident pleasure he had in tendering good advice and instruction, especially to youth, in a homely, pleasant, yet serious manner. He died on the 10th April, 1877, aged 75.

Early in 1845, Rev. James Byres Laing, Woodside, the Rev. Mr. Munro, of Blackhills, Skene, and other five ministers of the Congregational body in the Glasgow district, in consequence of their views on the work of the Holy Spirit in Conversion and on the doctrine of Election, being found at variance with those of their brethren, felt it necessary to withdraw from the fellowship of that section of the Church, and they formed themselves into what is known as the Evangelical Union ; but some time after Mr. Laing left Woodside, the congregation there again connected themselves with the body from whom they had separated.

In the year 1867, the old Cotton Chapel was taken down ; and, chiefly by the liberality of the late Provost

William Leslie, Aberdeen, the present handsome structure was erected on the same site, and was opened on the 29th December of the same year. A neat and convenient Hall has recently been added to it.

Before recording some facts in connection with the early history of the Woodside Chapel of Ease, now the Woodside Free Church, we have to acknowledge our obligation to Sir John Anderson for the use of most valuable and interesting printed papers, being reports of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, with a written preface by Sir John—now in the Anderson Free Library.

The Presbyterian portion of the population of Woodside, feeling strongly the inconvenience of having no place of worship nearer than the Old Machar Cathedral or Gilcomston Chapel of Ease, began to take steps in the year 1828 for the erection of a Church in the village. This movement may be said to have originated with Mr. Irvine Kempt, who urged upon Mr. Alexander Brown, then one of the proprietors of Woodside Works, the necessity for such an undertaking, and they, along with others, took a prominent part in carrying to a successful issue the building of a church and the settlement of a minister at Woodside. Mr. Alexander Brown was a brother of Dr. David Brown, Principal of Free Church College, Aberdeen.

The original Managers of the Church were—Alexander Rae, merchant, Woodside; John Davidson, merchant, Cotton; William Watt, farmer, Forresterhill; Andrew Mather, farmer, Middlefield; Robert M'Donald, druggist, Cotton; John Wight, baker, Cotton; Robert Fraser, gardener, Woodside; Irvine Kempt, engineer, Woodside Works; James Warrack, surgeon, Woodside; Alexander Brown, manufacturer, Donside; David Robb, bleacher, Gordon's Mills; and Gerrard Byrne, Grandholm.

Archibald Simpson, architect, Aberdeen, was asked to submit a plan of a church, with specifications, which were approved of; and at a meeting of the Managers, held on the 3rd August, 1829, it was agreed to accept Mr. Byres'

estimate, £1370, for carpenter work, and Mr. G. Duncan's, £535, for mason work. Dr. Warrack, Mr. Rae, and Mr. Brown, were appointed to wait upon the architect and tradesmen, and authorise them, on behalf of the Managers, to proceed without delay to the execution of the work. The church is capable of accommodating 1200 persons. After the building was ready, the Presbytery appointed the Rev. Dr. Patrick Forbes, Old Machar, to preach and open the Church on the forenoon of Sabbath, the 9th May, 1830, and the Rev. John Duncan (who afterwards became well known as an eminent Hebrew scholar) to preach in the afternoon. Mr. Duncan was appointed to supply the pulpit until the settlement of a minister.

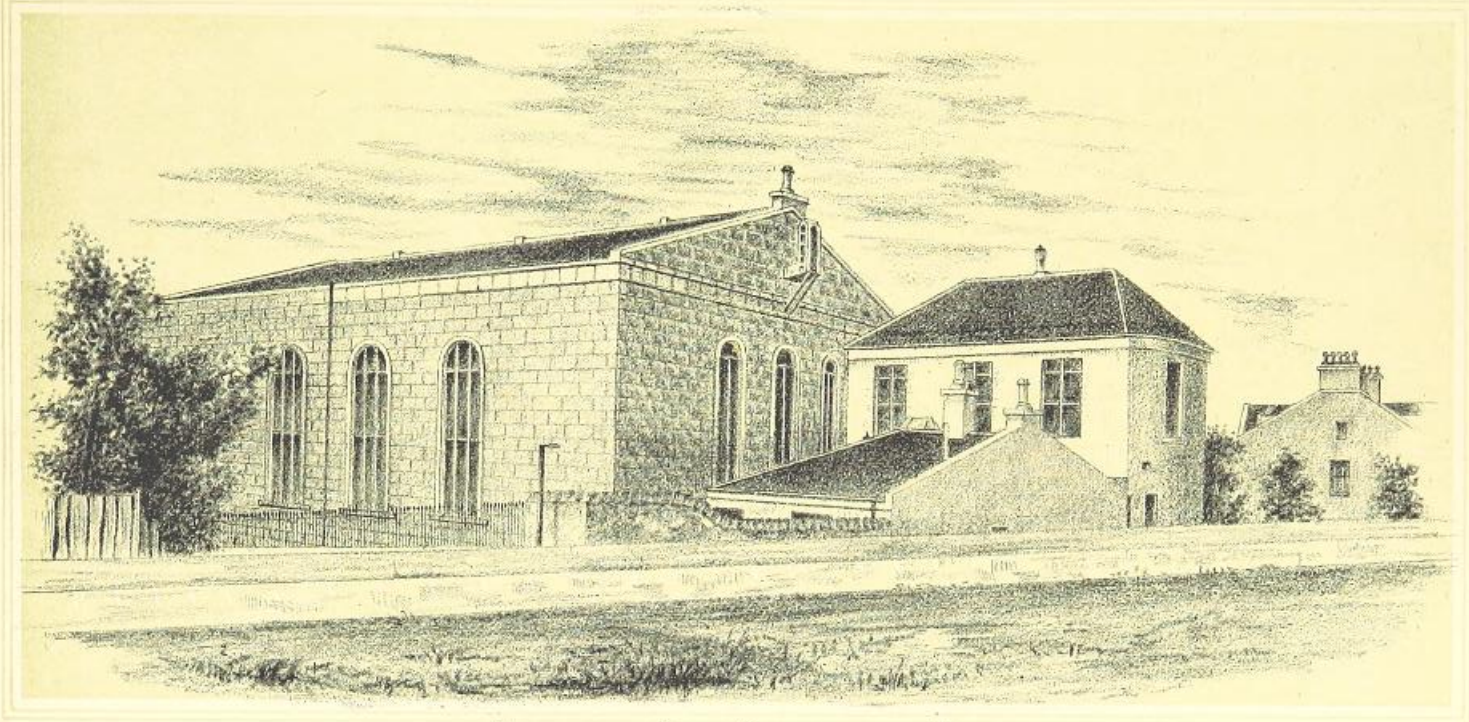
The leet of candidates for the church consisted of Mr. Alexander Leitch, Gartmore; Mr. Matthew Millar, Edinburgh; and Mr. Andrew Gray, Aberdeen. The Presbytery met in Woodside Church, on the 23rd September, 1830, for the purpose of proceeding with the election of a minister, when, after much contention, the voters were seriously addressed by the Moderator. The roll was then called, and votes marked, which stood thus :—For Mr. Leitch, *forty;* for Mr. Millar, *one;* for Mr. Gray, *sixty-one.* Provost Hadden's influence was used in favour of Mr. Leitch, for whom he voted. There was much wrangling over the election, which caused great delay in the settlement, and it was not until the 1st September, 1831, that Mr. Gray was ordained by the Rev. Mr. Pirie, of Dyce, afterwards Principal of the Aberdeen University.

On the 7th October, 1834, the Presbytery passed a resolution disjoining *quoad sacra* a portion of the lands of Grandholm from the Parish of Old Machar, and including the same within the new Parish of Woodside. Against this resolution Provost Hadden and Mr. Paton's trustees protested and appealed to the Synod, and the Synod referred the case to the General Assembly. We cannot give here the reasons on both sides. It was stated that there were at that date 4000 inhabitants in Woodside, and

1500 on Mr. Hadden's lands of Grandholm. Mr. Gray was refused permission to cross the Grandholm Bridge, and when visiting his parishioners in that locality he had to go round by the old Bridge of Don. Mr. Hadden, after a time, however, conceded to Mr. Gray the privilege of crossing the bridge. In conformity with the Act passed by the General Assembly in 1834, erecting Chapels of Ease into Parish Churches, the Presbytery of Aberdeen met on the 4th November, the same year, and appointed the following elders for Woodside Church, viz.:—Alexander Cooper, Grandholm; James Clark, Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen; William Gray, Gordon Street, Aberdeen; John Davidson, Cotton; John Wight, Cotton; Alexander Rae, Woodside; Andrew Mather, Middlefield—James Clark to be session-clerk—the first meeting to take place on Monday, the 10th November, 1834.

The Rev. Andrew Gray was a most laborious and able minister. His manner in the pulpit was lively—occasionally rising into rapture on some delightful theme, or, when dealing with some form of wickedness or error, he would raise his voice and fall into a kind of fury, sparing neither his pulpit Bible, nor his impenitent hearers. He seldom used his manuscript in the pulpit; being very short-sighted, he could not manage to read it without discomfort to himself and loss to his hearers. He was a vigorous, earnest preacher, never monotonous. Mr. Gray organised a large Sabbath School, and awakened in the teachers and scholars a considerable amount of enthusiasm; and not being satisfied with the facilities afforded for the week-day instruction of the young, he succeeded in raising funds sufficient for building a large school, which is now the Burgh Hall. He also commenced a congregational Library, and Mr. John (now Sir John) Anderson was appointed librarian.

Mr. Gray had many difficulties to encounter during the first years of his ministry. He unfortunately got into bad terms with the Messrs. Hadden, who not only refused him



WOODSIDE FREE CHURCH AND HALL.

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the use of their wooden bridge across the Don, when visiting his people residing on the Grandholm side of the river, as before mentioned, but would not allow any of their servants to accept any office in Mr. Gray's congregation. In a few years, however, this petty persecution was relaxed, and afterwards entirely abandoned.

In the year 1836, Mr. Gray was called to the West Church, Perth, and left Woodside, carrying with him the most affectionate regards of an attached flock.

Mr. Gray was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Forbes, a promising young probationer from Aberdeen, who followed up the work of his worthy predecessor with remarkable zeal and wisdom, and became exceedingly popular, and soon filled the large church to overflowing—the demand for sittings being greatly in excess of the supply. Finding, after his settlement, that the want of names or numbers to the streets and doors was a serious hindrance to the prosecution of his pastoral work, and, being remarkable for his love of order and skill in arrangement, he successfully set about rectifying this great drawback. The church was lighted up with gas for the first time on Sabbath, the 15th December, 1839, and on that occasion Mr. Forbes preached an eloquent discourse from 1st John i. 5—"In Him is no darkness at all." Mr. Forbes had a lively, winning manner in the pulpit, moving from side to side, merely glancing at his manuscript. He had a pleasant voice, and was fluent and clear, but not profound. Before commencing his lecture or sermon he read and expounded a chapter. This was a most interesting and useful part of his pulpit services. The heads and principal remarks of the discourse he always repeated for the benefit of the young people, who very generally noted them down to be used in the Sabbath Schools. In his pulpit services he was never wearisome either to young or old. He conducted a prayer meeting on Sabbath morning in the Session House, after visiting the preparatory communion classes held in the School. Mr. Forbes was himself superintendent of the

Sabbath Evening School, which was attended at one time by nearly 500 scholars. He visited and shortly addressed each class in the school every Sabbath evening, and met with the teachers at the close. The following is a copy of a letter in our possession which Mr. Forbes sent to the Sabbath School teachers, while endeavouring to recruit his somewhat impaired health at Dunoon, which will show the warm and particular interest he felt in Sabbath School work :—

"DUNOON, *May 2nd*, 1849.

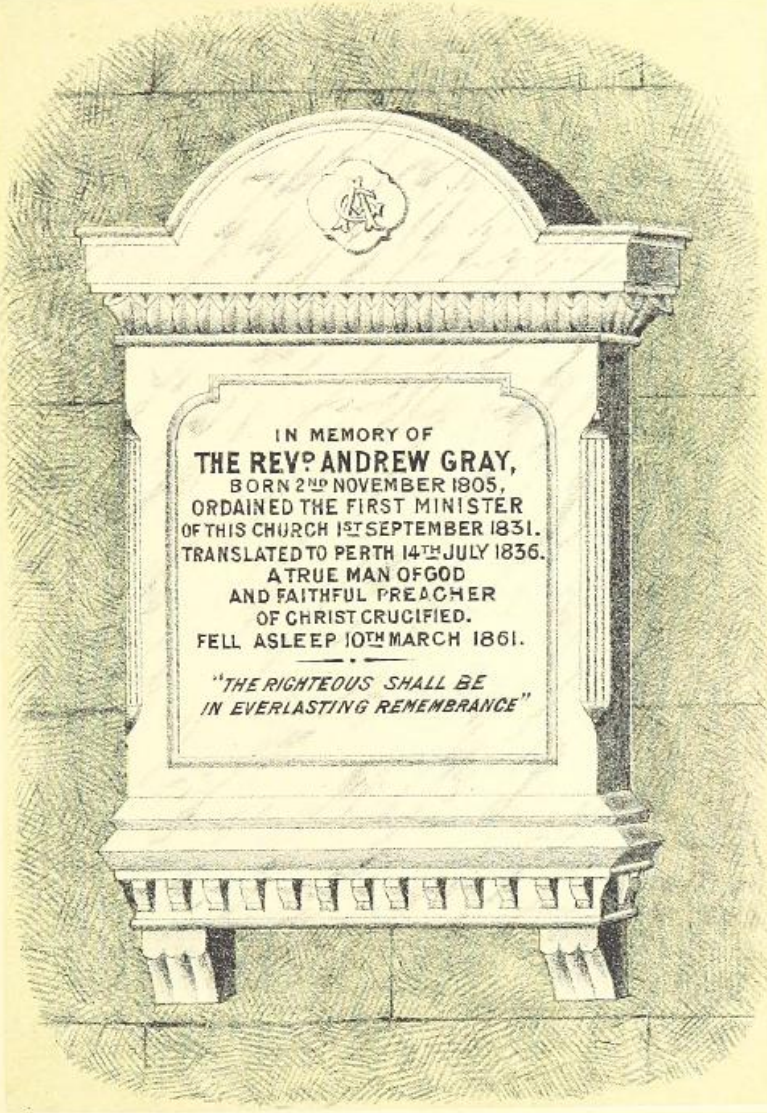
"My Dear Friends,

"I have written a long letter to the congregation generally, which some of you may have heard read on Wednesday evening, but I could not let your quarterly meeting pass by without attempting to be present one way or other. Bodily presence is impossible—nearly 200 miles lie between us. I therefore send you this little piece of paper as my representative, and you will perhaps permit it to make a short speech. It promises not to be tedious and not to weary you :—

"I fancy I see the well-known school, with its pictures, so attractive to the youthful eye ; I see the two old tables bearing up their tea equipage and the needful supply of the staff of life ; I see the Committee of Management busy in the discharge of their appropriate functions ; and around the tables I perceive faces and forms very familiar and very dear to me.

"But now the banquet is over, and the psalm is sung, and the subject is going to be discussed. It is an important one—a very wide subject—'The best method in teaching in Sabbath Schools.'

"I shrink from entering on such a subject. I would need sheets upon sheets, with much patience, study, and attention to do it justice. Many, however, are the very sententious answers that could be given to the questions, *each* containing some truth, but none ever attempting to


IN MEMORY OF
THE REVD ANDREW GRAY,
BORN 2ND NOVEMBER 1805,
ORDAINED THE FIRST MINISTER
OF THIS CHURCH 1ST SEPTEMBER 1831.
TRANSLATED TO PERTH 14TH JULY 1836.
A TRUE MAN OF GOD
AND FAITHFUL PREACHER
OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED.
FELL ASLEEP 10TH MARCH 1861.
"THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL BE
IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE"

MARBLE TABLET
on wall to the right of the Pulpit
WOODSIDE FREE CHURCH.
The gift of Sir John Anderson.

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exhaust the theme. Let me now take a few that occur to me :—

"1. Seek to engage the attention.

"2. Aim at possessing the confidence and affections of the scholars.

"3. Familiarly illustrate divine truth—Christ taught the people in parables.

"4. Water your teaching with your prayers.

"5. Aim at the conscience.

"6. Seek to burden the heart rather than the memory.

"7. Let your great aim be the conversion of the soul.

"8. Seek not so much to please as to profit.

"9. Study the human heart.

"Some of my friends present will most likely give utterance to some of these sentiments, and I am sure the Scripture readings will be numerous and appropriate.

"But I must have done. Need I say that my prayers and warmest wishes are yours ?

"May the blessing of the Lord rest on you and yours. I trust, if the Lord will, to see you soon, and not to be absent from your next meeting ; while I am ever, dear friends, your affectionate friend and pastor,

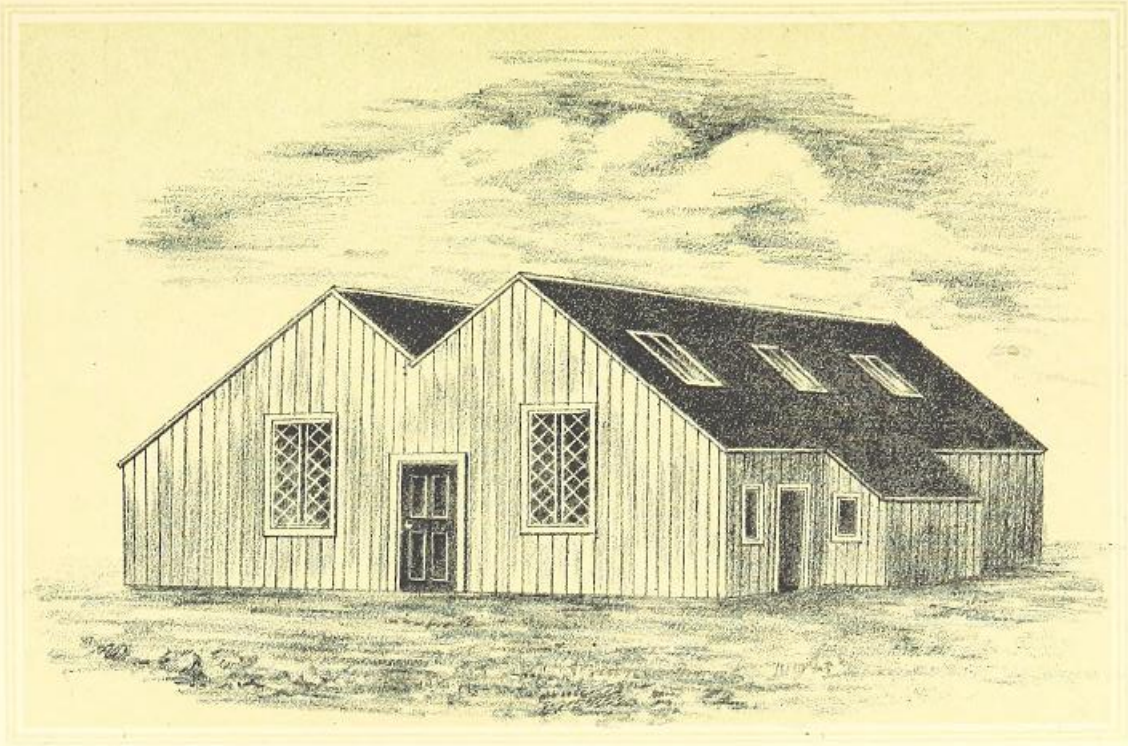
"ROBERT FORBES."

Mr. Forbes for some years delivered scientific lectures during the winter seasons, presided at temperance meetings, and took a leading part in every good work in connection with the Village. He wrote and published an excellent catechism for the use of his young communicants, and with this class he was most painstaking and thorough. He also prepared and published questions for the use of parents preparatory to their receiving the ordinance of baptism for their children, with brief addresses on parental qualifications and duties. He compiled and published a most excellent digest of rules and procedure of the Inferior Courts of the Church, a most useful book for Sessions and Deacons' Courts, and greatly

prized all over Scotland. The amount of work that Mr. Forbes accomplished, when in fair health, was almost incredible.

During the famous Ten Years' Conflict with the State for spiritual independence, which culminated in the Disruption, Mr. Forbes took his full share in the struggle, and in 1843 he left the Establishment, and for several Sabbaths he and the great bulk of his congregation worshipped in the playground of the school. A wooden church was erected on a small field behind Mr. Clark's School. This piece of ground was feued by a Mr. Russell, who was plied hard by the Moderate party to refuse it, but a kind, wealthy lady, Mrs. Spark from Aberdeen, who had great influence with Mr. Russell, succeeded in counteracting the pressure brought to bear upon him. There was a debt of £1200 upon the church, but the Moderate party claimed the church, while repudiating the debt. The case went to the Court of Session, and after eighteen months the Judges in Edinburgh decided that the church and the debt must go together. The church was exposed for sale, and purchased by the Free Church party, when Mr. Forbes and his congregation left the wooden structure and returned to the old place of worship, endeared by many tender ties. The Moderate party left the old church after the decision of the Court of Session, and worshipped in Cotton Chapel on Sabbath evenings, until, by the indomitable perseverance of Mr. John Reid, a grocer in the village and a member of the Established Church, with help from friends all over Scotland, the present handsome building was erected in connection with the Church of Scotland, and is now the Parish Church of Woodside. The ministers were, successively, the Rev. Messrs. Sutherland, Wallis, Keay, and Shepherd—all excellent preachers. The present minister is Mr. Ogilvie, who was appointed in 1885.

Mr. Forbes' character stood deservedly high, and, as a token of appreciation of his services, a number of his friends in Woodside and elsewhere resolved to present him with a



The Wooden Church which was erected after the Disruption on a small field behind what was Mr Clark's School and which was occupied for 18 months as a place of Worship.

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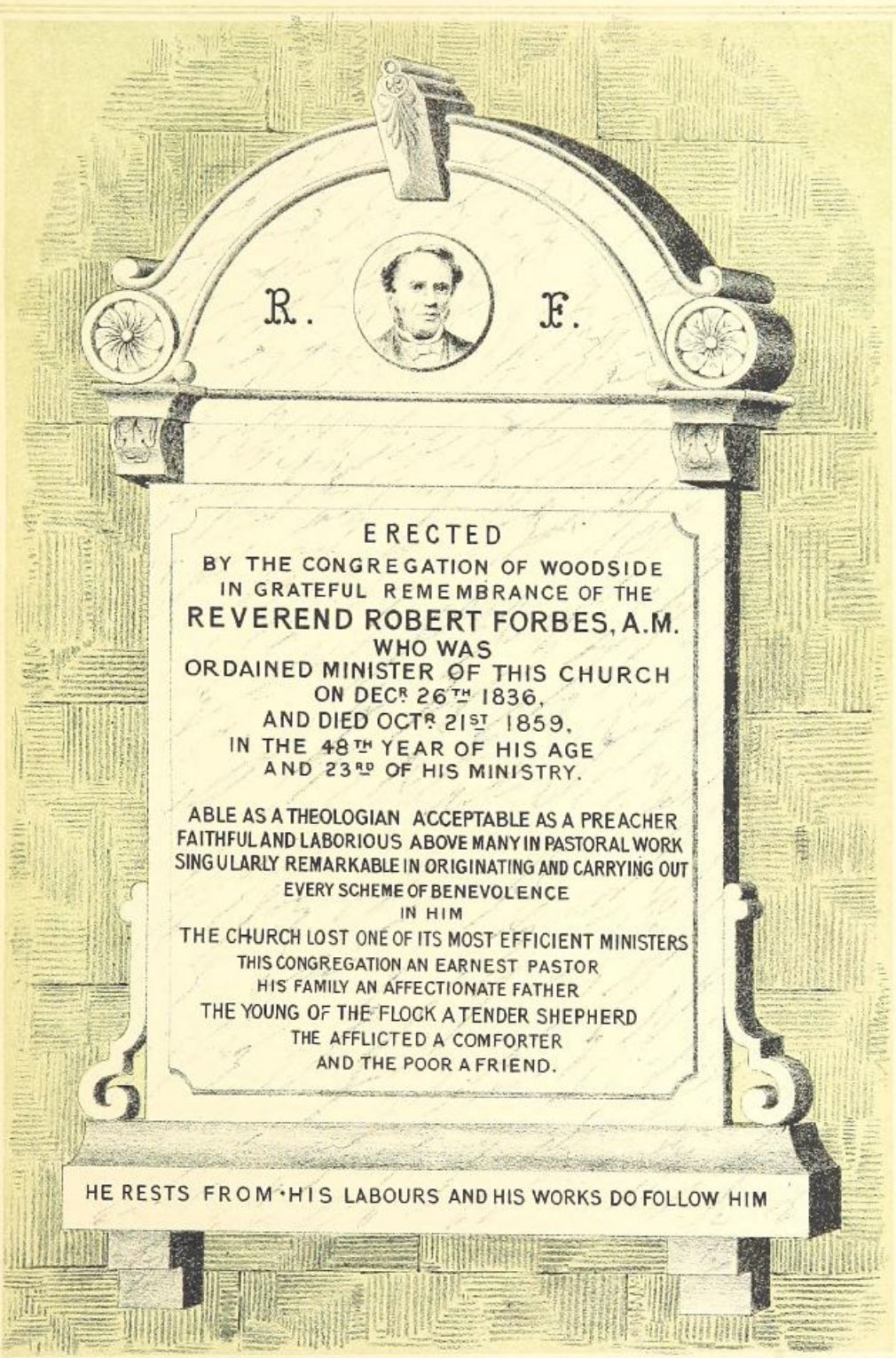
testimonial of their affection and esteem. Subscriptions were readily obtained, and at a public meeting, in the Free Church of Woodside, held on Saturday, 28th June, 1856, the chairman, Dr. Isaac Gilchrist, after some preliminary remarks, stated that the chief part of the testimonial, now to be presented, bore this inscription :—

"Presented, together with philosophical apparatus and inkstand, to the Rev. Robert Forbes, A.M., by members of the Established and Free Churches at Woodside, and by other friends, as a tribute of their esteem, affection, and gratitude, and in testimony of his active benevolence and zealous ministerial labours during nearly twenty years.—June, 1856."

The testimonial, he said, was quite unsectarian in its character, for Mr. Forbes's genuine liberality commended itself to all who valued the catholic love of primitive Christianity. He then referred to his charitable interest in the poor, not only privately, but through various schemes which he had conducted—such as the Coal Fund and the Relief Fund—and to his indefatigable labours in the cause of temperance. At a time when popular lectures were hardly dreamed of, he ventured on the platform to give instruction in Science, in Art, in History, and in Philosophy. In no other village, perhaps, had so many courses of popular lectures been delivered, and Mr. Forbes had ever been ready to undertake the whole or any part of such work. His pulpit ministrations, characterised by an enlightened combination of precept with doctrine, of strong, sound sense with earnest piety, had been peculiarly acceptable, convincing, and edifying. Dr. Gilchrist concluded by stating that, guided by a desire to present what would be useful and ornamental, and also durable enough for an heirloom, the committee, after consulting Mr. Forbes, had selected a large oak bookcase and cabinet, bearing the above inscription engraved on a silver plate; various philosophical apparatus; a

silver inkstand; and the last item, indicative of Mr. Forbes's charitable disposition, was a sum of money for private benevolence.

Mr. Forbes expressed, in an eloquent and feeling manner, his acknowledgement of the testimonial, and took a retrospect of the history of Woodside since his settlement as minister, nearly twenty years before. After referring to the changes that had taken place in the removal of friends, by death or other circumstances, he noticed that the period referred to had been a time of social advancement. In some of the steps of this progress throughout the country this locality had taken the lead. He then spoke of the attempt made early in 1837 (immediately after his settlement) to obtain municipal privileges for Woodside, and to the Bill of Sir Andrew Leith Hay on the subject, which was checked in Parliament by the death of William IV.; and he expressed a hope that the locality might soon enjoy the benefits of municipal government. He then referred to the Savings Bank which was opened in June, 1839; but which, owing to a prejudice fostered in the minds of the working people that their employers would reduce their wages if they deposited, had existed only about two years. He also alluded to the popular, scientific, and literary lectures begun by himself in 1840, and to his having joined the Temperance Society in December, 1839—a step which he had never seen reason to regret. He then noticed several improvements effected in the Village, specifying the introduction of gas in 1839, the improvement in conducting funerals without the use of wine or other refreshments, the naming of the streets and numbering of the doors, the Parochial Coal Fund, established in 1840 (which had received the warm support of a noble charity in Aberdeen—the Murtle Fund); and the Clothing Society, which was instituted in 1842. After referring to the kindly feeling which existed among the members and ministers of the various sections of the Church in the locality, Mr. Forbes


R.
F.
ERECTED
BY THE CONGREGATION OF WOODSIDE
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE
REVEREND ROBERT FORBES, A.M.
WHO WAS
ORDAINED MINISTER OF THIS CHURCH
ON DECR 26TH 1836,
AND DIED OCTR 21ST 1859,
IN THE 48TH YEAR OF HIS AGE
AND 23RD OF HIS MINISTRY.
ABLE AS A THEOLOGIAN ACCEPTABLE AS A PREACHER
FAITHFUL AND LABORIOUS ABOVE MANY IN PASTORAL WORK
SINGULARLY REMARKABLE IN ORIGINATING AND CARRYING OUT
EVERY SCHEME OF BENEVOLENCE
IN HIM
THE CHURCH LOST ONE OF ITS MOST EFFICIENT MINISTERS
THIS CONGREGATION AN EARNEST PASTOR
HIS FAMILY AN AFFECTIONATE FATHER
THE YOUNG OF THE FLOCK A TENDER SHEPHERD
THE AFFLICTED A COMFORTER
AND THE POOR A FRIEND.
HE RESTS FROM HIS LABOURS AND HIS WORKS DO FOLLOW HIM

MARBLE TABLET fronting main entrance WOODSIDE FREE CHURCH.

BRITISH
16 JY 86
MUSEUM

concluded by making some affecting personal observations, and by again offering his thanks for the splendid testimonial.

In a letter to a friend, shortly after his settlement, Mr. Forbes gives an account of his plan of visiting his congregation, which we venture to say is worthy of imitation. He says, "My plan, for which I give myself credit, as I believe it to be original, is this :—I go into every family and fill up my visiting book, converse a little, and then request all the family to attend a meeting next day in a neighbour's house. The people get away from their work and come up well. At this meeting, which occupies about an hour, after a short prayer, I read a chapter, draw a practical inference or two from it, and then address all as pointedly as possible with reference to the concerns of the soul, pointing out especially the duties so apt to be neglected—prayer, reading the Word of God, attendance upon ordinances, &c., &c. I then descend to *individuals*, and speak to parents, heads of families, the aged, and children, and conclude with asking some questions at the young people present, and prayer. I have gone through twenty families this week in a very outcast neighbourhood. From all I had a kindly reception, except one, a woman from Shetland, who treated me and my visit and my advice with ineffable contempt. I am determined never to get angry at anything said to me, but to use a soft answer, which turns away wrath. This I found on the occasion before me."

The system of visitation, so auspiciously begun, Mr. Forbes continued more or less to the close, and his visits were acceptable and profitable to a very large extent.

The Rev. Robert Forbes died suddenly, on the Old Road near his manse, while on his way from a meeting of the Temperance Committee in the School, on the 21st October, 1859, in the 48th year of his age, and 23rd year of his ministry. He had been aware of an approaching attack of a malady to which he was subject, and, hastening home, fell on his face among the snow, within a few yards

of his own gate. Mr. Forbes' death was greatly lamented, not only at Woodside, but wherever he was known.

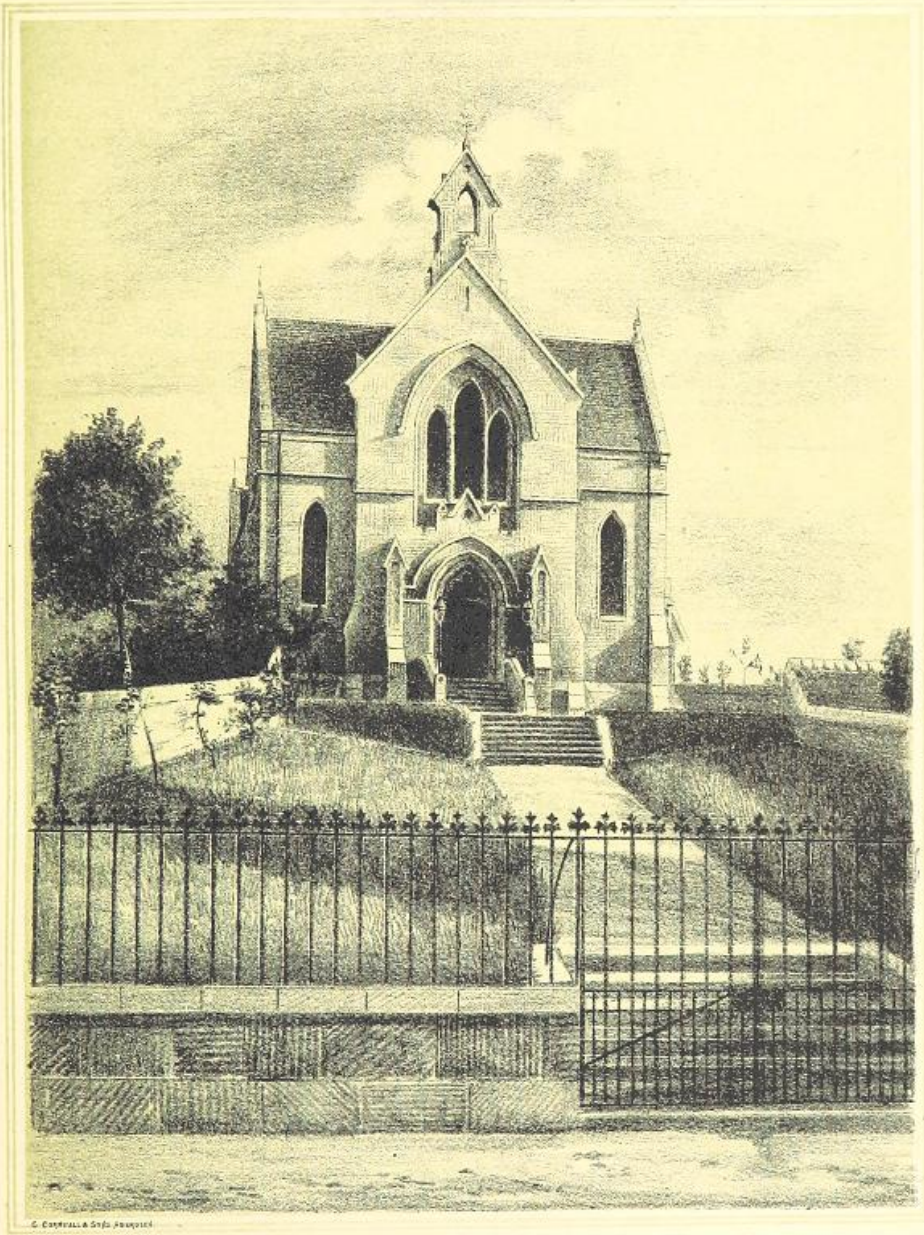
> Alas! alas! our hearts still bleed to think
> Of that cold winter night, as homeward bent
> From works of love, Death laid on thee his hand
> With sudden grasp, and snapt the silver cord,
> Untimeously, to our imperfect view.
> Thy dying pillow was the drifted snow;
> No voice to soothe, no gentle touch was there,
> No loving hand to close thy weary eye.
> Mysterious are Thy sovereign ways, O God!
> With tears we humbly say, "Thy will be done."

Mr. Forbes was succeeded by the Rev. Alexander F. Moir, the present incumbent.

A handsome Hall, including large and well-furnished class-rooms, has been built in connection with the Free Church, and though somewhat awkwardly placed, is nevertheless a great convenience to the congregation. The Hall was opened on the 10th November, 1880.

On the 26th of August, 1877, a small body of members of the United Presbyterian Church began to hold regular Sabbath-day services in the Burgh Hall, with the view of forming a congregation; and, after being fully organised and acknowledged as a congregation of that body, they appointed the Rev. W. A. Dunbar as their pastor, and succeeded in building a handsome church on an excellent site, occupying the whole space of ground between the new part of the Old Road and the main street of the Burgh. The formation of this congregation, and the erection of the beautiful church, are mainly due to the zeal and energy of Baillie David Smith, manager of the Woollen Factory, Gordon's Mills, a gentleman of superior intelligence and Christian character, and much respected in the Burgh of Woodside. The Church was opened on the 13th February, 1881.

The Salvation Army hold their meetings on Sabbath and week days in the Temperance Café Hall.



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—WOODSIDE.

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The Roman Catholics hold their services in a small building near the foot of Tanfield Walk. The Rev. A. Gerry is the present clergyman.

From the Rev. Dr. Fergus Ferguson's History of the Evangelical Union we extract the following :—

"Yes, the Aberdonians were Athenian in their curiosity ; for when the 'New Lights' came north, like fresh streamers in the sky, the rumour ran through the town that 'the men who have turned the world upside down have come hither also,' and so the worthy citizens went forth to see and hear for themselves.

"Their appetite had been whetted, indeed, by a series of meetings which had been held at Woodside in the Rev. Mr. Laing's Church, in June, 1845, by Rev. Fergus Ferguson, then of Bellshill. The Village of Woodside was just the distance of Bethany from Jerusalem ; and, as many of the Jews went out to see and hear Jesus long ago, not a few of the Aberdonians went out to hear the preacher from the south, and obtained 'soul-refreshing views of Jesus and his Word.'

"Although the suburbs had been blessed, there was as yet no thought of beginning a cause in the city itself."

Mr. Laing, while ministering to his congregation at Woodside, studied medicine in Aberdeen, and succeeded in taking the degree of M.D. He also edited the "Day Star," a magazine which is still carried on in connection with the Evangelical Union Church.

Dr. Laing left Woodside for Canada in April, 1859, and settled in Hamilton, Ontario, where he died in the year 1879, about the age of 64.

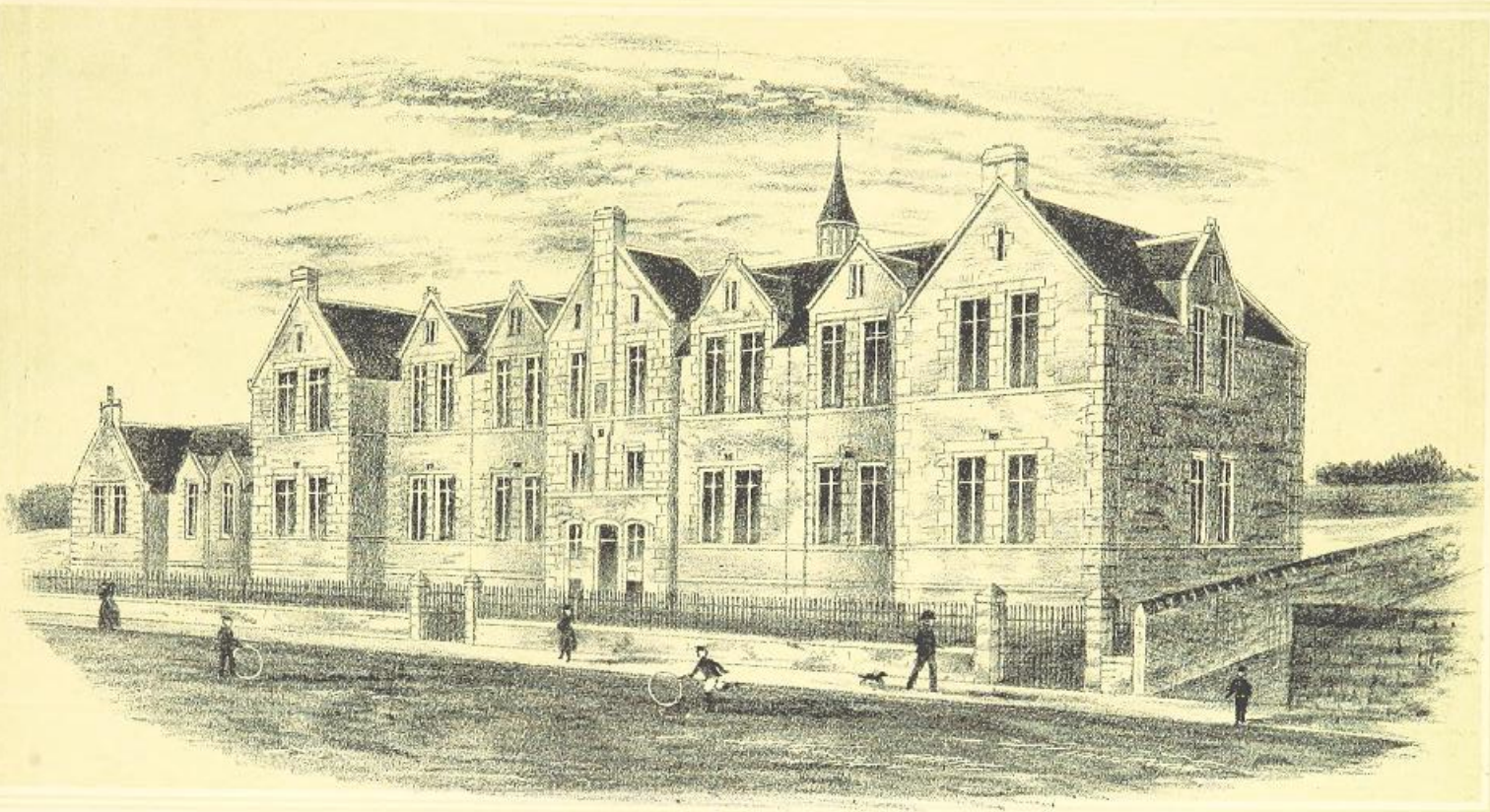
It is interesting to know that during the winters of 1860 and 1861 the Rev. Dr. Alexander Whyte, of Free St. George's, Edinburgh, who was then pursuing his Arts studies in Aberdeen, occasionally conducted evangelistic services in this chapel, and his precocious work there was so much appreciated by the congregation that there were proposals, of a more or less formal nature, made to him to become their pastor. Although this did not come to any practical issue, it is to the credit of this congregation that they thus early formed a true estimate of Dr. Whyte's abilities.

Schools.

AS the population of the Village increased, week-day schools became plentiful. Gordon, Barron, and Co., provided a school in one of the two rows of houses near the Works, called the "Brae Houses," the "Caird Brae," the "Bog Brae," &c. This school was taught successively by Mr. Beattie, Mr. Meston, Mr. Rennie, Mr. Cantley, Rev. Mr. Robertson, Dr. Alexander Mackay, Mr. Robertson, &c. There were other schools in the village, taught by Mr. James Clark, Mr. George Cooper, Mr. Watt, Mr. Wisely, Mr. William Jamieson, Mr. John Clark, &c.

About the year 1837 a large school was opened, built by subscription, now the Burgh Hall. Mr. Alexander Michie was the first teacher appointed, and his style of teaching created a new era in the history of Woodside. This school became a great blessing to the place. Mr. Michie could not be surpassed as a teacher of the young. He resigned in 1852, and was succeeded by Mr. Boddie, who left Woodside in 1860, when Mr. George F. Duthie was appointed teacher, now the worthy headmaster of the Board School, which was opened in February, 1875, and is the second largest school in Scotland, having nearly 1400 pupils. Mr. Duthie came to Woodside, 5th January, 1861.

Besides the great central Sabbath School, begun by the Rev. Andrew Gray, there was one held in the Brae School, taught by Deacon Williamson, Mr. William Leslie (Provost), and Mr. David Milne, members of George Street Independent Chapel, Aberdeen, who came out of town every Sabbath evening for many years, and had the satisfaction of seeing their self-denying labours crowned with considerable success. There was another Sabbath School in "The



WOODSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL.
Mr George F. Duthie, Headmaster.

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Hillock," taught by the Rev. James Grant, for many years teacher of Donaldson's School, Aberdeen. There was a Sabbath School taught in Mr. Clark's School, and one at Persley, beside others. The one at Persley was conducted by Mr. David Macdonald, now ex-Baillie Macdonald, Aberdeen, and Mr. George W. Clark, now of Glasgow.

It may here be mentioned that, in addition to Sabbath Schools, Mr. Forbes instituted preparatory Communion classes, which met every Sabbath morning in the school for nine months in the year, conducted by suitable teachers. The text-book was an excellent Catechism, which he prepared and published, in 1842, for the use of young persons preparatory to their receiving the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, having ten divisions in the following order:—Evidences of Revealed Religion—God—Man—The Law—The Saviour—The Spirit—The Means of Grace—The Church—Baptism—The Lord's Supper. After the young people had completed their nine months' attendance at the class, they were received into the minister's class for young communicants, which met once a week for three months—males and females on different nights.

Mr. Forbes closes his little work with an address to the young who have passed through his class, concluding as follows:—

"Young believer! you have great encouragements. You have the sympathies and prayers of your fellow-believers. The promises of God, the fulness of Christ, and the consolations of the Spirit are all yours—Heaven itself is unveiled as your present hope and your future portion. 'Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.' Oh! it is sweet to tread the courts of the earthly Zion, but sweeter still to walk in the golden streets of the heavenly Jerusalem; it is delightful to partake of the brook by the way and to quench the spiritual thirst at the river of Christ's ordinances below, but more delightful far to drink at the fountain head above and to 'bathe the weary soul in seas of heavenly rest.'"

Libraries.

SOMETIME after the Printfield Works were fairly set agoing, a subscription library was opened under the charge of Mr. John Brown, one of the printers. The books were mostly works of fiction, and were a source of enjoyment to the more intelligent portion of the inhabitants. This library afterwards became the property of Mr. Alexander Rae, a retired print-cutter, who for many years supplied his readers with books on reasonable terms. Alexander Rae was uncle of the late John Smith, president of the Society of Advocates, and father of Alexander Rae, surgeon, Royal Navy, who died March, 1867, aged 76 years. On his retirement from the navy, Dr. Rae became a partner with John Adam in the business of flax and seed merchant, Turriff, and, having married Mr. Adam's sister, succeeded to the estate of Scobbach, now Ardmiddle. Dr. Rae left a son and a daughter, the latter of whom was married to the present proprietor of Ardmiddle, John Duguid Milne, advocate, Aberdeen.

Mr. William Alexander, teacher, had a library in his little school behind the buildings known as "Johnnie Angus' Houses." The author is in possession of the printed catalogue of this library, which contained 620 volumes, and was similiar to that belonging to Mr. Rae, but not so well known. There was a very excellent Sabbath School Library, in the Brae School, for the use of the Sabbath scholars only. The Rev. Andrew Gray established a library for the use of his congregation, which was from time to time enlarged. Mr. John Anderson, now Sir John Anderson, was its first librarian. The Woodside Temperance Society instituted a library about the year

1840, which was, after some time, amalgamated with the Free Church Library. All these had their day and their place, and, let us hope, fulfilled their purpose fairly well, but they sink into insignificance when compared with the Anderson Free Library, the gift of Sir John Anderson, which is looked upon as the most beautiful and most valuable institution in the Burgh of Woodside, containing a wealth of literature which it is difficult to estimate. The building, the books, the arrangements, have each been the subject of much careful consideration, and it requires a fair degree of culture to be able to know and appreciate the exceeding worth of this noble gift and to feel sufficiently grateful to the generous donor, to whom we further refer in succeeding pages. What makes this Library so specially useful and valuable is not merely the large amount that has been expended in its equipment, and its being furnished with some 10,000 volumes, but the extreme care which has been exercised in their selection. In most departments of literature it contains an abundant supply of the best representative works. An exhaustive, well edited catalogue, educative in itself, forms a valuable adjunct and key to the whole.

The exterior of the Library Hall, from an architectural point of view, as will be seen by the illustration given, is at once compact and handsome. The site has been well selected. The building was erected from a design by Messrs. Pirie & Clyne, architects, Aberdeen, who have been careful to use the ground to the best advantage. The interior is finished in a most effective style, chiefly in oak, with brass fittings ; the furniture and other accessories are complete and elegant. Around the walls are placed the busts of Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, Livingstone, Bacon, Newton, Faraday, Watt, Scott, Burns, Shakespeare, Milton, and Byron. The presentation portrait of Sir John Anderson hangs on the eastmost wall. The working of the Library is yet another evidence of the inventive ingenuity of the generous donor, and is as efficient as it is unique.

Temperance, &c.

IN the years 1839 and 1840 the Temperance movement made great progress at Woodside, the Rev. Mr. Forbes giving it his hearty support. A Total Abstinence Society was formed. Mr. James Hogg was the first president, and continued to hold that office until he left Woodside, some nine years after. Mr. David Ferrier was vice-president. A branch society of the Rechabites was established, called the Thistle Tent, which was similar in its constitution to an Oddfellows' Lodge, but on temperance principles. Mr. Garden Hepburn, Mr. John Michie, and Mr. Peter Youngson, sen., were "chief rulers" in their time. Mr. Thomas M'Pherson, now the Rev. Thomas M'Pherson, Liverpool, was secretary; but after a few years of useful work these Temperance organisations gradually collapsed. A small number, however, remained firm until better times came round for this good cause, which is now in a fairly prosperous condition in the Burgh.

It was in connection with the temperance work that soirees first began at Woodside; and many happy social evenings were spent in the School, now the Burgh Hall, the time being well filled up with amusing and instructive speeches, vocal and instrumental music, accompanied with the simple refreshments of tea and fruit, and many friendly greetings; the Rev. Robert Forbes invariably presiding, imparted life and sweetness to all such gatherings.

A National Security Savings Bank was established at Woodside, and was first opened on the 22nd June, 1839. Mr. William Jamieson was appointed actuary. Although this institution had a good beginning, it did not continue to find favour at Woodside, and, after a fair trial, was given up.

Woodside Poets.

THERE were several of the inhabitants of Woodside endowed with some degree of poetical genius. We mention three—James Cock, Henry Barron Keith, and John Fullerton. James Cock was born at Elgin in the year 1752, and was bred to the occupation of a weaver ; and, after moving about in various parts, he came to the Village in 1796, and found employment at Grandholm Mills. He endured a great deal of hardship in his time, but lived to a good old age, and died at Woodside. In the year 1820 he published a small volume of poems on various subjects. We quote the following, which was composed on the death of his son Thomas :—

A WEIGHT of years adds to my weight of grief.
  Now from my time-worn breast my comfort 's torn ;
Oh ! what below the sky can give relief,
  With hoary hairs and wrinkles now I mourn ?

Ah ! what is life with all its boasted pride—
  What's youth's fantastic dream of future years—
But false delusion, or an empty shade,
  Which flattering hope or fickle fancy rears ?

No more around our homely board he'll join
  The loved companions of domestic peace,
When every comfort of this life was mine,
  And sweet contentment smiled on every face ;

When youth and health and love adorned the feast,
  And fond affection warm'd each kindred heart ;
Where all combined to cheer my time-worn breast,
  And every smile did mutual bliss impart.

Henry Barron Keith was a son of John Keith, manager, Old Mills, Woodside Works. He was trained in the counting-house there, and gave promise of rising above the ordinary level. He wrote a great many short poems of considerable merit, which appeared in various publications. He left Woodside for Edinburgh a few years before his death, which took place on the 29th April, 1847, ere he had reached his thirtieth year. The following, which was written to Charles Cockerill, barber, is a specimen of his ordinary effusions :—

A GUID New Year I wish you, Charlie ;
Fu' be yer pat o' beef and barley ;
Yer girnal panged wi' guid aitmeal ;
Yersel', yer wife, and bairnies weel ;
Wi' plenty aye for each day's cravin' ;
And chins in dozens needin' shavin'.

The following stanzas by Mr. Keith appeared in the *Weekly Register* for 30th October, 1844 :—

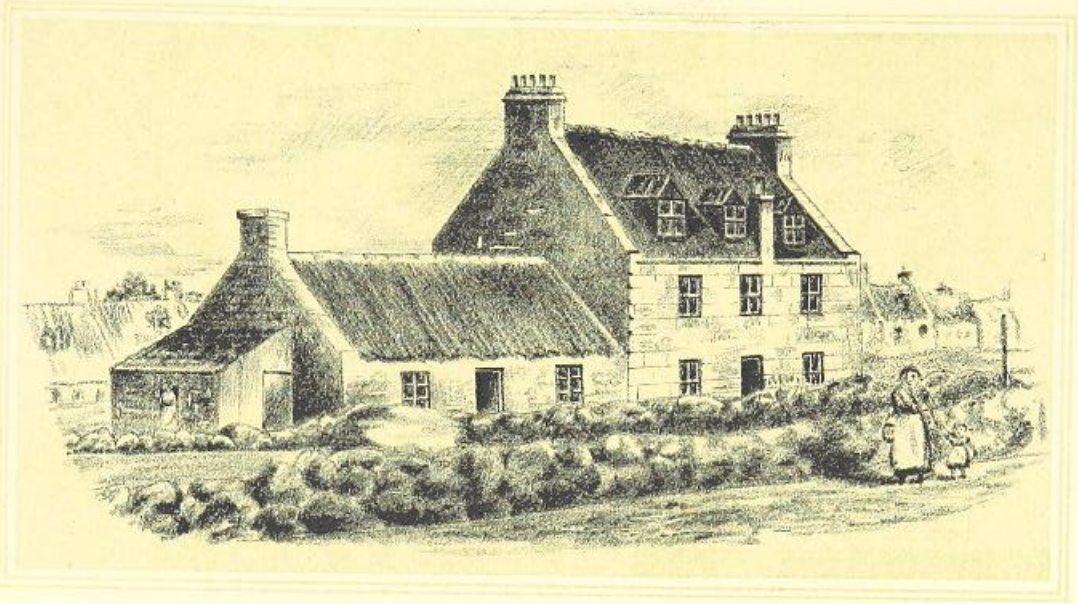
A BARD'S BEQUEST.

COME, stan' aside me, Betsy, lass, an' cry the bairnies here ;
But oh ! lest ye wad brak my heart, restrain that gatherin' tear ;
Ower weel you see, ower sair you feel, what naething noo will hide—
That here wi' thae sweet lambs an' you I ha'ena lang to bide.

Yet ere upon my glazin' een the hin'most darkness fa's—
An' fast an' near I feel its gloom resistless round me draws—
I fain wad speak o' what may be your lot when I'm awa' ;
Aye mindfu' o' the Power abune that rules the fate o' a'.

We ha'ena in the lap o' fate by dautin' han's been nurs'd ;
It wasna goud the chain that bound our hearts thegether first.
Our wants hae maist been a' supplied, but seldom aught to spare ;
Sae words o' strife it winna need 'bout wha shall be my heir.

But tho' o' warld's gear I've nane, tho' house nor lands be mine,
There's something in that wee bit box I wadna like to tyne—
The rhymes and sangies that I've wrote for nane's e'e but my ain,
May help to bring my orphans bread when I am dead and gane.



JAMES CLARK'S SCHOOL & HOUSE WHERE JAMES COCK THE POET LIVED.

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I ken the venal critic's pen will scarce approve my muse ;
Her simple strains may fail to gain the suffrage o' reviews ;
But honest minds may aiblins meet some thochts to theirs akin—
They're whisperings frae a puir man's heart ; but poortith's nae a sin.

We've sung them roun' our ain hearthstane, an' leugh or grat the while
As sorrow gied us cause for tears, or pleasure gar'd us smile.
Each has a story o' its ain—some memory o' the past—
Your love inspired my earliest lay, an' well deserves my last.

And, Betsy—but the heavy hand o' death is on me now—
Oh ! with my kerchief wipe the damp that gathers on my brow ;
Bend low your ear—my struggling soul, impatient to be free,
Is tortured wi' divided love between its God and thee.

Farewell ! My deein' benison my burstin' heart wad gie ;
But oh ! a greater mercy's yours than word or deed frae me.
Friend o' the fatherless and poor, amid life's reivin' storm,
The helpless in Thy promise hope, and Thou wilt weel perform.

The next poet we notice is Mr. John Fullerton, who was born at Woodside, 11th September, 1836. As early as his tenth year he left school, and was employed as a twister at Woodside Cotton Works. He attended an evening school, where he made rapid progress, and also the Aberdeen Mechanics' Institution, where he excelled in English composition. In 1870 he removed to Peterhead, where he still continues to reside, employed as a writer in a solicitor's office. In his teens he evinced a faculty for verse-making. Mr. Fullerton has contributed largely in prose and verse to several well-known Scotch and English journals and magazines, frequently over one or other of his *noms-de-plume*—"Wild Rose," "Robin Goodfellow," and "Rip van Winkle." We select his "Ghaist of Dennilair." "Thanks for your 'Ghaist,'" said the Rev. George Gilfillan, in the course of a letter to the author. "He's a fine fellow, and you have sung him in good flowing verse." "The Ghaist of Dennilair takes my fancy uncommonly," said the late Dean Ramsay ; "the turn of the legend is so pretty, the description of the Ghaist in Canto III. is, I think, charming."

Dennilair is a picturesque ravine which runs directly from the Parsonage, All Saints', Woodhead, to the Ythan, a little above where it enters the Braes o' Gight.

O, weirdly wild is Dennilair,
The bravest, bauldest, dinna care
To wanner e'en mid noon-tide's glare
Doon by its stream ;
Though fair the flowers that deck its braes,
An' blythe the birds that lilt their lays,
Nae sweet-faced bairns there mak' their plays,
Or happy dream.

At nicht, when a' is husht an' still,
Save winds low sabbin' on the hill,
Or eident flow o' stream an' rill,
Ghaists meet, they say ;
And when the mune is i' the west,
And larks begin to leave the nest,
Ane, troubled mair than a' the rest,
Alane will stray.

Wi' face as white's the driven snaw,
He noiseless glints through leafy shaw,
But blossoms feel nae his foot fa',
He treads sae licht ;
An' aft, as 'neath a tree he stan's,
He wrings in wae his fleshless han's,
But nane will stop to tak' comman's
Frae sic a wicht.

Ae fearfu' nicht o' wind an' rain,
The like o't's ne'er been seen again,
A cottar's wife was seized wi' pain
On jizzen bed ;
The guidman raise, drest in a crack,
But spak' nae till on *Daisy's* back—
"My wife, wae's me, is on the rack
An' near-han' dead !

"An' I'm nae keen aboot this road ;
I winner gin the ghaist's abroad,
That *Daisy* swithers 'neath her load
'Tween death an' life ?"

He digs the spurs deep in her sides,
An' wi' a death-like tremour rides ;
The ford is passed, he sees whaur bides
The canny wife.

Oh, weirdly wild is Dennilair,
When claps o' thunner rend the air,
An' forket lightning's vivid glare
Sets hills a-flame,
When eerie soughs swall o' the breeze,
An' sabs an' sichs come thro' the trees,
The guidman's blood was like to freeze
As he rade hame.

"Cross nae the ford," the dame implores,
"The water's deep—hear how it roars—
An' oh ! I fear the ghaist's afore's,
On sic a nicht,
We'll meet him lone on bank or brae ;
Oh, turn, guidman, till brak o' day,
We're far eneuch this dreary way—
I'll dee wi' fricht."

In vain she begs ; nae cry he hears
As down the broken road he tears,
His ain heart beatin' lood its fears
That winna rest.
Still deeper in auld *Daisy's* sides
He ca's the spurs as on he rides ;
Nor cares tho' ilka hillock hides
A fearsome ghaist.

He neared the ford, the dame a-hin',
The sheltie tearin' on like win',
"He's swift o' fit wha'll tak' me in,"
The guidman says.
Alack ! when hauf-way thro' the ford
He hears a groan, an' syne a word,
An' sees a fleshless han. "The Lord
Preserve's," he prays.

"Ye ride richt fast, my brave guidman,
But dinna fear my fleshless han',
I'se guide yer beast wi' care an' cann,
Thro' ford or flood ;

I ken ilk fit o' Dennilair
In winter bleak, an' simmer fair,
I've travelled here baith late an' air',
Hill, dale, an' wood ;

"But naething stranger than mysel'
I've seen, it is the truth I tell—
And naething strange to me befel
Thae twenty years.
But whaurfore dee ye ride the nicht?
I ken—nor winner at ye're fricht ;
But ye'll be safe, an' I'll be richt—
Sae calm yer fears.

"Wae's me ! I've waited lang an' sair—
Thae twice ten dreary years an' mair—
For sic a tryste by Dennilair,
Joy gars me greet ;
For we'll I ken ye're loon's first cry
Will brak the spells that o' me lie ;
Then to the dead I'll creep in by,
'Neath gowans sweet.

"The haly kirk, it cursed me thrice ;
A pair o' glives, three groats the price,
Was a' I stole, they waurna nice,
Gey waur o' wear.
An' aye sin' syne wi' troubled breast,
I've wanner'd here, a restless ghaist,
Forsaken, shunned, unloved, unblest,
Year efter year.

"An' sae, guidman, at break o' day
Gang to the tree on yonder brae,
The leafless aik, wi' branches grey ;
Aneath its stem
Dig deep, till four grey groats ye see,
Then to the priest the glives' price gie,
Wha cuist his malison on me—
Noo there's yer hame."

Nae mair when a' is husht an' still,
Save winds low sabbin' on the hill,
Or tinklin' flow o' stream an' rill ;
Ghaists noiseless stray.

Weird Dennilair is weird nae mair ;
The ghaist is laid, an' flow'ries fair
Bloom o'er his grave, and scent the air,
Baith nicht an' day.

Oh, bonnie are the braes o' Gight !
When simmer days are lang an' bricht,
I'd lie upo' them day an' nicht,
Nor dream o' care ;
But listen to the sang o' birds,
The flow o' streams, an' low o' herds ;
A book o' music wantin' words
Is Dennilair.

Although not a Woodside poet, yet, on account of his great celebrity, we may here record the fact that Lord Byron, when a young lad, lived a short time at Woodside with his old nurse, Agnes Gray, then married to Alexander Melvin. She lived in the first floor of the old house, 177 Barron Street, the back of which faces what was then the new turnpike road, a little beyond the present tramway terminus. This house was frequently designated "Byron Hall." Byron at this time gave a gold watch to Agnes Gray's son, George Byron, at whose birth, in St. Andrew Street, Aberdeen, Byron's mother had been present, and requested Agnes to name the boy after her son. On the marriage of Agnes Gray, her sister Marjory had succeeded her as nurse to Byron, and of her kindness and affection towards him when a boy he continued to have a grateful remembrance. Marjory was afterwards married to James Laing, candlemaker, Flour Mill Brae, Aberdeen. We cannot give the exact date of Byron's visit and short stay in Woodside, but we know that when there he fell in love with an attractive girl named "Lexy" (Alexandrina) Campbell, who lived with a very respectable spinster, Nelly Calder. Poor Lexy lost caste by this affair, and her subsequent history was unfortunate.

In his "Detached Thoughts," Byron says—"My passions were developed very early—so early that few

would believe me if I were to state the period and the facts which accompanied it. Perhaps this was one of the reasons which caused the anticipated melancholy of my thoughts—having anticipated life."

Agnes Gray referred to was Byron's first nurse in Aberdeen. She was a pious woman, and taught him, while yet a child, to repeat a great number of the Psalms; and the 1st and 23rd Psalms were among the earliest that he committed to memory.

George Byron Melvin, to whom Byron gave the watch, died when a young man. Previous to his death, however, he gave the watch to his brother Alexander, who sometime afterwards passed it to his aunt, Marjory Gray, and when she died her husband presented it to Dr. Ewing, Aberdeen, for his kindness during her illness. In Moore's "Life of Byron," it is stated that Byron had, on leaving Newstead for Harrow, presented May (Marjory) Gray with his watch; but we believe this is a mistake, and that the account we have given is correct.

Woodside Doctors.

ABOUT the end of the last and the beginning of the present century, Dr. Gordon, a much-respected physician in Old Aberdeen (who was succeeded in his practice by his son, the late Dr. James Gordon), made professional visits to Woodside daily; but the growing population felt the inconvenience of his residing at such a distance from the Village; and about the year 1823 (at a public meeting presided over by the Rev. Neil M'Kechnie), Dr. John Campbell Stewart was invited to come to Woodside, with the promise of support. Dr. Stewart responded to this invitation, and took up his residence in Bairnshall House, formerly occupied by Dowager Lady Bannerman. Soon after, Dr. Mackie and Dr. Gray came to the Village; but, though none of these three doctors was deficient in medical skill, they all became victims to the prevailing vice which is the great blot of our country. Dr. William Stewart, son of the above-mentioned Dr. Stewart, assisted his father for some time, and afterwards went to Australia.

Dr. James Warrack, son of Mr. John Warrack, foreman calico printer at Woodside Works, after being abroad some years, returned to Woodside, and became connected with the lessee of the private Lunatic Asylum at Upper Middlefield, which he conducted for some years. After Dr. Warrack's death, Dr. Poole had a lease of this Asylum for many years. He was a man of literary tastes, and during the Tractarian controversy in the Church of England, he published in 1854 an elaborate treatise on the question at issue, entitled—"The Grand Contrast: God and Man: Set forth in an Epitome of Holy Writ, with Reflections;

and a critical examination of Mr. Newman's essay on 'The Development of Christian Doctrine.'" The work was prefaced by a letter addressed to the Earl of Shaftesbury.

About 1840 a Sick Fund was established at Woodside and Grandholm Works. A small sum was deducted weekly, or fortnightly, from the wages of each worker, for which they were entitled, when sick, to medicine, medical attendance, and a small allowance of money. Dr. Isaac Gilchrist, by the recommendation of the late Dr. William Leslie, received the medical appointment in connection with these Works; and this was the origin of his twenty-five years' connection with Woodside. He was a successful surgeon and physician, a man of refined taste, and much respected. He died in July, 1865, aged 47 years. His early removal by death was deeply regretted by the inhabitants of Woodside and surrounding district. Dr. Gilchrist was first bursar at Marischal College before he had reached the age of thirteen years, and carried the highest prizes during his four years at the Arts classes. When he was twenty-one years of age he went to London to pass his examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, where Sir Astley Cooper, one of the examiners, being impressed with the superior abilities of Gilchrist, advised him not to return to Aberdeen, promising to obtain a good appointment for him; but he respectfully declined to accept Sir Astley's kind offer.

The following is taken from a notice of his death, which appeared in the *Aberdeen Journal*, 6th July, 1865:—

"Dr. Gilchrist was a distinguished student both in Arts and in Medicine, and soon after taking his medical degree, upwards of twenty-five years ago, he settled in Woodside, where he has remained. Woodside, at the time Dr. Gilchrist settled there, was a busy, bustling place compared to what it has been for some time past, and the doctor took a great interest in everything pertaining to the progress of the Village; while his skilful treatment of his patients, and his kindly manner with them, endeared him to everyone

with whom he came in contact—more particularly the poorer classes. When the late admirable pastor of Woodside—the Rev. Robert Forbes—was busy promoting numerous good works of a practical kind, he found a right-hand man in Dr. Gilchrist, who, alike in times of prosperity and adversity in the Village, was ready with his countenance and active aid; and between the minister and the doctor there was a mutual feeling of attachment and respect. Dr. Gilchrist was about forty-seven years of age, and it is sad to think that, after struggling and fighting his uphill way in life, he should now be cut off in his prime, when he had achieved a fair position in the district. His death will be much regretted by everyone in and around Woodside; while a numerous circle of friends in Aberdeen who knew him intimately—his sociability, intelligence, and frankness of manner—will miss a friend, the like of whom they will not soon see again."

Dr. Gilchrist was succeeded by Dr. James E. Fowler, who has ever since enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the inhabitants of the Burgh of Woodside and the surrounding districts. Dr. Fowler was elected Chief Magistrate of the Burgh in 1871, and held that office for three years.

The inhabitants of Woodside were perhaps quite as fortunate as some of the larger villages in having amongst them that useful and homely class usually called "howdies," or midwives, most of whom had passed through a course of instruction and training, more or less, under some of the principal medical practitioners in Aberdeen. It will be sufficient to mention in this connection the names of Mrs. Rattray, Mrs. Simpson, and Mrs. Booth.

NOTE.—The Rev. Mungo Parker lived some time with Dr. Poole at Middlefield. Mr. Parker was previously minister of the East Free Church, Brechin, where he had the Rev. Dr. M'Cosh as colleague, but had to relinquish the charge on account of a mental affliction. Mr. Parker was a man of a highly sensitive nature, and his vigorous mind could not brook retirement from active service; although not perfectly

restored to health, he yet took delight in preaching in the various Free Churches in Aberdeen.

In his later years he resided at Ruthrieston, where he took pleasure in ministering to the spiritual necessities of the district, and succeeded in forming a preaching station, which afterwards developed into the Free Church congregation there, of which the Rev. Robert Semple is the present pastor.

Mr. Parker died 1st April, 1867, aged 58.

In an obituary notice which appeared in the *Aberdeen Herald*, 6th July, 1867, it was said that "Mr. Parker's zeal for the proper education of the young, by which he understood educating the heart as well as the head, was throughout a prominent feature of his work. He knew all the children personally, and had a friendly word as well as a pat on the head for each one he met. It was a treat to see him coming up the road to his church on a Sunday morning, among old and young, with his silvery beard and his flowing Geneva gown, which, there being no vestry, he put on in his own house before leaving. He walked up the centre of his modest little chapel with a grace and dignity that no archbishop could surpass. This grave stateliness of demeanour he never laid aside; but it was so natural to him, and so tempered with genuine courtesy and kindliness, that it put no distance between him and the humblest of his flock. It was not that he sought to assert himself, but that, like Paul, he sought to magnify his office. He found true delight in his work. His youthful visions had been blasted; and he had passed through mental conflicts, the scars of which could never leave him; but he realised in his experience that grand old truth that there is a higher love than the love of happiness—that 'a man can do without happiness and find blessedness,' and so the turmoil of his spirit was calmed; or at most

> We saw but sorrow in its waning form,
> A working sea remaining from the storm,
> Where now the weary waves rolled o'er the deep,
> And faintly murmured ere they fell asleep.

He passed away apparently without a pang; and the villagers of Ruthrieston felt that in their humble circle a light had gone out. Peace to a gentle memory. 'After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.'"

Prominent Natives of Woodside.

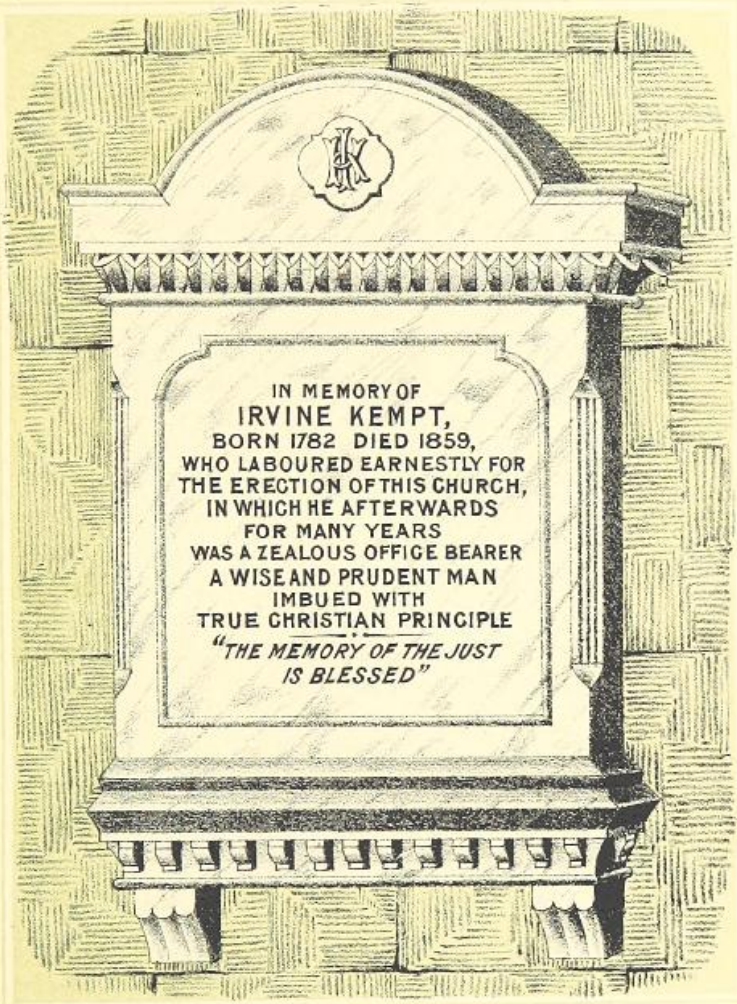
WOODSIDE, like other small burghs, cannot afford sufficient scope for the energies of the more enterprising young men who are born or may spend their early days within its bounds; and for this reason many of this class have removed to places more or less distant, and have attained to positions creditable to themselves and to the place of their birth or early youth.

Of these we may name the late John Smith, who was president of the Society of Advocates, Aberdeen; James Smith, father of Professor Smith-Shand; John Connon, Judge, Bombay; Dr. Charles Connon, author of an excellent English Grammar; Sir John Anderson, Dr. Rae, Dr. William Stewart, Dr. Angus, Dr. Patrick Osborne, Dr. Ferrier, London Hospital; Dr. Wight, Dr. Moir, Dr. Murray, son of William Murray, Woodside House; Rev. Messrs. Thomson, Belhelvie; Rust, Slains; M'Pherson, Liverpool; Gunn, Dollar; Grant, Australia; Keith, Carmylie; Brown, New Zealand; Rose, Dundee; Clark, Foveran; Messrs. John Duguid Milne, sen., John Duncan, John Davidson, and Alexander Forbes Wight, advocates; ex-Baillie David Macdonald, merchant, Aberdeen; Messrs. William Murray, Woodside House; George W. Clark, merchant, Glasgow; Irvine Kempt, general superintendent, Caledonian Railway, Glasgow; James Mitchell, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange; James Chalmers, general manager, Messrs. Gilroy, Dundee; and George Russell Gowans, artist. Among the prominent natives named we may be pardoned for selecting the following three for special notice, viz., Sir John Anderson, Dr. Ferrier, and Mr. William Murray.

SIR JOHN ANDERSON.

Sir John Anderson, C.E., LL.D., F.R.S.E., &c, son of John Anderson, a respected merchant in Woodside, was born there, in the south front room (ground floor), of the house opposite Warrack's Bridge, now No. 19 Barron Street, on the 9th December, 1814, a few months after the death of his father. His parents were members of the Gilcomston Chapel of Ease, and on the occasion of his baptism the Rev. Dr. Kidd was strikingly moved to more than usual fervour and tenderness in his prayer for the child, being stimulated no doubt by the circumstance of the recent death of the father. His early years were spent in picking up the amount of information that was available at the Village school. He had the advantage of being under the training of Mr. Rennie, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, a very superior teacher, as well as other teachers of considerable merit. At the age of thirteen years he was entered as an apprentice mechanic at the Woodside Cotton Works of Gordon, Barron, & Co., where he reaped the benefit of the personal instructions and supervision of his stepfather, Irvine Kempt, who was manager of the mechanical department.

Mr. Kempt was a man of rare intelligence, remarkable mechanical skill, and endowed with a combination of the highest intellectual and moral qualities ; and to him belongs, to a considerable extent, the credit of moulding the character of Sir John, and directing the bent of his youthful mind. He had also the additional advantage of the training of his mother, a woman of unusual excellence, from whom he inherits many of the admirable personal qualities by which he is distinguished, as well as some of his high mental gifts. At that time the Woodside Works presented an excellent field for the training of the young mechanician. There was every opportunity for learning both the making and the working of machinery, as well as acquiring an intimate knowledge of the system of a great manufacturing



MARBLE TABLET
on wall to the right of the Pulpit
WOODSIDE FREE CHURCH.
The Gift of Sir John Anderson.

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establishment, so successfully applied by the future engineer to that of the War Department.

In his growing years he connected himself with, and took a leading part in, the various literary and religious institutions of the Village, and he became a great favourite among his compeers, his acquaintanceship being much sought after. He was the first appointed honorary librarian of the Parish Church Library, and, previous to his leaving Woodside, was presented by the inhabitants, at a meeting presided over by the Rev. Robert Forbes, with a suitably-inscribed testimonial. The conception of the noble gift of the Anderson Free Library had its rise from Sir John's connection with the Church Library. The writer well remembers Sir John's kindness in guiding him in his choice of books from this Library. Some idea of the extent of this Church Library may be formed when it is mentioned that at its commencement the shelves fixed round the seat space of a hexagon-shaped pew in the east gallery of the church, were sufficient to contain the number of books in the catalogue.

These early years, though they were passed in comparative obscurity, were not without effect on the whole of Sir John's future life. The seeds were then sown which produced that untiring zeal, perseverance, and devotedness which characterised his conduct, social and official, in after years.

Leaving Woodside in the year 1839, fortified by his early training, good examples and precepts, and the firm discipline of private life, he successively served under the well-known firms of Penn, of Greenwich ;* Sir William Fairbairn ; Sharpe, Roberts, & Co., Manchester ; and Napier, of London, till the spring of 1842, when he was appointed by the Government to take charge of the manufacture of brass guns at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

* For a number of the particulars connected with Sir John Anderson's career I am indebted to an article which appeared in *The Biograph* for November, 1881.

With his views as to a possible career of public usefulness thus opened up to him, Mr. Anderson did not permit considerations as to better pecuniary prospects, at the time, or in the immediate future, or in other lines of employment, to weigh with him ; but at once took up his new position with the utmost earnestness.

With all the enthusiasm and inventive energy of his nature, he set himself at once to introduce many needed reforms, and, as time went on, invented new machines to be used in the department to which he was attached. It would be impossible to detail all the important applications of Sir John's inventiveness, but we subjoin a brief account of two of them :—

"By the time he had completed eight years' service he had invented no fewer than sixteen new and valuable machines for executing different processes in the construction of ordnance, bullets, and percussion caps, during which time he had been laying the foundation of a splendid reputation.

"One bullet machine, invented by him, turned out 40,000 bullets an hour, at a cost of 5½d. per 1000, besides making the bullet perfectly homogeneous and symmetrical. By the old method of casting, a less perfect article was obtained, which cost 5s. per 1000, the effect of such inventions, system, and organisation being to reduce the cost to the nation.

"Another of his inventions was a machine for granulating gunpowder, which dangerous and delicate operation it performed automatically. It supplied its own wants with pressed cake ; it separated the produce into the several different sorts ; as the boxes became filled the machine of its own accord removed them, and brought empty ones in their place ; and, after exhausting the entire supply, it first stopped its own motion, and when all was safe it rang a bell for the attendant."

By such practical successes Mr. Anderson gained the

thorough confidence of the successive heads of the Ordnance Department. The young artillery officers gathered round him eager to see his work and to hear his plans, and he was subsequently invited to become lecturer on Practical Mechanics at the Royal Military Academy. He accepted the post with some diffidence, but such was his thorough knowledge of the subject, and such his enthusiasm, that his lectures were a signal success.

In 1853, Mr. Anderson was requested to report on the capabilities of the Government Rifle Factory at Enfield for manufacturing bayonets by machinery. Briefly, his report was to the effect that they could be made more quickly by machinery, and at about one-third of the cost. Subsequently he reported that in a similar manner each of the 57 parts of which a rifle was composed could be made at the rate of 500 a-day, if required. These propositions were deemed illusory by private manufacturers in London and Birmingham, and others, and roused their strong opposition; while Lord Raglan and other distinguished officers expressed their strong confidence in his views. The result was that after a visit of inspection to the various small-arm factories in America, Mr. Anderson had his own way, and the satisfaction of seeing the Government Factory established at Enfield, producing annually 100,000 rifles with bayonets complete, and at a cost of less than £2 each, with which the prices paid to contractors bore no comparison.

The strain of the Crimean War was then on the country, and the enormous value of what Mr. Anderson had already done, and what at each succeeding emergency he was prepared to do, was strikingly shown. As everybody knows, that war was entered upon when our armaments were extremely defective, and the means of supplying arms and ammunition entirely inadequate. Towards the end of 1854, a most pressing requisition arrived from Lord Raglan for a supply of shells for the Lancaster guns. The temporary factory where these were being made caught fire and was

burned to the ground. The shells were much wanted, and a minimum of 100 per day was fixed on as absolutely necessary. In the urgency of the moment, and after a remarkably short time for consideration, Mr. Anderson undertook to have the factory erected, filled with the necessary machinery and appliances, and to be in operation at the end of two months' time. After some unavoidable delays, but not till full power was given him, and with the severe and stormy weather of 1854-55 to contend against, this factory was at work in two months from the date of the order being given. The Lancaster Shell Factory was no sooner out of hand than it was determined to equip and send a floating factory to the Crimea, in order to meet the numerous wants of the army, which depended so much on mechanical resources. A screw vessel of 600 tons was procured and fitted up as a factory, with gearing and all the usual tools of an engineer's establishment, containing a cupola, a smith's forge, a complete sawmill, all the requirements of a brass and iron foundry, and an arrangement of portable engine standards and shafting to set up a manufactory on any level piece of ground ashore, if such should be required. It was afterwards visited by the chief officers of the Allies and the Russians, all of whom expressed their surprise and admiration, declaring that it, together with the railway, gave them a higher opinion of England, her resources, and her settled determination to conquer ultimately, than almost any other transaction connected with the war.

A number of other very important changes were meantime going on in connection with the Royal Arsenal, in all of which Mr. Anderson was the leading spirit. From 1853 to 1859 was to him a period of intense activity of mind and body, every moment not absolutely required for rest being surrendered to the discharge of onerous duties.

In 1859, when the Government determined to commence the manufacture of Armstrong guns, Mr. Anderson was chosen to superintend the work. He undertook to pro-

duce 100 12-pounders during the first year, and actually succeeded in turning out 103, with some 200 additional in various stages of completion. At that time he had the entire practical management of 3000 workmen, with the title of Assistant Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factory, Sir William Armstrong being his nominal chief. During the next four years, 2490 guns were made, in addition to an enormous amount of other work being done. In comparing the prices of such articles as could be made by contract with the contract prices, there was a great saving.

In addition to his heavy burden of official work during these busy years, Mr. Anderson found time to deliver courses of lectures on professional subjects to the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich, to the officers of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, and to the School of Naval Architects at South Kensington, and was also the author of a work, entitled "The Strength of Materials," which is now in its eighth edition, and many technical pamphlets, besides serving as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 6th Kent Rifle Volunteers.

The Government having decided in 1866 to place an artillery officer at the head of the Gun Factories, Mr. Anderson was appointed Superintendent of Machinery to the War Department, from which important office, and after thirty-two years of continuous and arduous service, he retired in 1872 on a thoroughly well-earned pension.

In 1871, the University of St. Andrews conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. After having served as a Juror at the International Exhibitions of London (1862), Paris (1867), and Vienna (1873), where he was Vice-President of the Machinery-group of Jurors, he received from the Emperor of Austria the decoration and rank of the Order of Francis Joseph. In 1876 he was president of the Machinery-group of the Philadelphia Exhibition. He was also a member of the Jury

at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 ; the same year he received the honour of knighthood from the Queen, and was created officer of the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

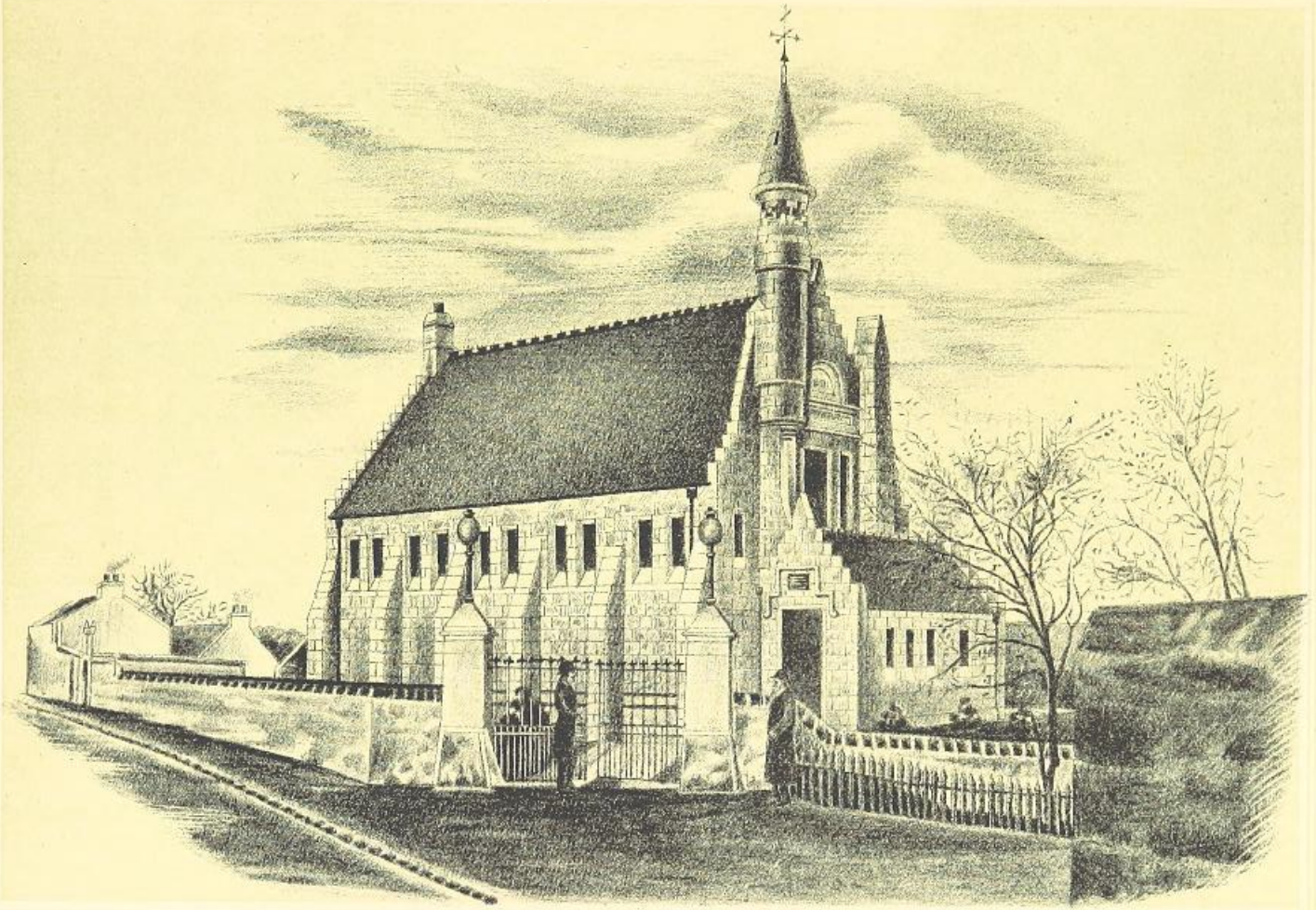
Sir John Anderson is a member of the Society of Arts, of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and was a Vice-President of the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Such, then, is a brief sketch of a life of devotion to the State ; but, having decided that the whole of his successful efforts were entirely due to his early training at Woodside, he determined on repaying the debt of gratitude which he felt he owed to his native place. He considered that a Public Library was the most suitable form which his appreciation could take, and in August, 1881, he presented to the Burgh of Woodside a Free Public Library, consisting of over 9000 volumes, well selected, and duly classed and catalogued.

The presentation of the Library was made publicly, amid great rejoicing at Woodside. The Town Council of Aberdeen embraced the opportunity of Sir John's visit to present him with the Freedom of the City.

We shall here give some extracts from the *Daily Free Press* of Monday, the 15th August, 1881, giving an account of the opening of the Anderson Free Library, Woodside :—

The opening of a Free Library, the gift of Sir John Anderson to his native Burgh of Woodside, took place on Saturday afternoon (13th August, 1881), amid demonstrations of rejoicing of the heartiest description. The occasion marks an era in the history of the Burgh, and the inhabitants, with one consent, strove to do honour to the man who has given so substantial and fitting a proof of his desire for their mental, moral, and material welfare. The Burgh, from one end to the other, was ablaze with bunting, and eloquent with the display of grateful expressions, every house almost contributing its quota to the decorations, with flags, evergreens, flowers, and appropriate mottoes, while



THE ANDERSON FREE LIBRARY, Woodside near Aberdeen.

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numerous streamers and banners waved from lines stretched across the principal thoroughfare.

At the triumphal arch, in front of the old Boat House, a grand procession was formed, which included the various Lodges, representatives of the trades and other bodies, as also the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen.

Previous to the procession starting, Sir John Anderson, who was accompanied by Lady Anderson, was presented with the following address by Mr. David Littlejohn, Chief Magistrate of Woodside :—

"To Sir JOHN ANDERSON, Knight, LL.D., &c.

"We, the inhabitants of the Burgh of Woodside, beg leave, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Anderson Free Library, to express briefly our sense of your munificent and enlightened liberality in the gift about to be made by you to your native place.

"A Free Public Library has been fully recognised as one of the leading necessities of every large community, and an object for which, under legislative sanction, the people may be taxed. It would, therefore, have been no ordinary boon, under any circumstance, to have had such a gift conferred upon our Burgh and district ; but what must be held to add an altogether exceptional interest to the presentation of the Anderson Free Library, with its large and admirable selection of books, and accompanying catalogue, prepared with so much care and intelligence, is the fact that the generous gift comes from the hand of one whose own distinguished career has furnished such a splendid example to the youth of Woodside.

"We can only express our sincere hope and trust that the Library now about to be opened will long continue to be widely influential in providing that refining and elevating influence among the people of Woodside of both sexes, so justly spoken of in your preface to the catalogue, and that thus the wish of your heart may be fully realised.

"Permit us, in conclusion, to express our earnest wish

and prayer that you and Lady Anderson may be long spared together in the enjoyment of every earthly blessing, and that we may continue to have the pleasure of witnessing your occasional visits to your native place, in which, throughout a most active, useful, and honoured life, your interest has been so continually and strongly manifested."

The party then proceeded to the Free Church, about a mile distant, the road being lined with thousands of enthusiastic spectators.

At the meeting in the Church, which was presided over by Mr. David Littlejohn, Chief Magistrate, the ceremony of formally handing over the Library was performed in presence of a numerous and highly interested assemblage. Sir John Anderson, who was accompanied by his legal adviser, Mr. George Collie, advocate, amidst great cheering, adhibited his name to the Deed of Trust. Mr. Collie then came forward, and, addressing the Chairman, said—On behalf of Sir John Anderson, I have now the pleasure of handing to you a catalogue of books which Sir John makes over as a Free Library for the benefit of the residenters of the district of Woodside. I also beg to hand you a deed, in which Sir John conveys certain feu-duties which he acquired for the purpose of yielding an annual income to maintain this Library in all time coming. This deed makes provision for the keeping up of the other things that Sir John has been good enough to institute in connection with the school ; it also conveys a sum sufficient for procuring a separate building for the Library. Sir John instructs me to make these gifts to you on behalf of the good people of Woodside.

The Chairman and the Rev. Mr. Shepherd, Woodside, having addressed the meeting,

Sir John Anderson, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, the whole audience rising to their feet, said—My dear friends, you do me so much honour that I feel scarcely equal to the present occasion. From the very

gracious manner in which my gift has been accepted, and from the hearty and heart-felt words which have been uttered by your representative, the Chief Magistrate of Woodside, and the Chairman of the School Board, Mr. Shepherd, I can assure you that my heart is filled with satisfaction and gratitude. It is my ardent wish that this Library should be a great boon to the community of Woodside, and that in due time it will serve as an instrument to elevate both the mental and physical tone of the district. If it does that, it will have accomplished the purpose for which I have given it. My dear friends, on the 29th day of May, 1839, now two-and-forty years ago, I finished my apprenticeship ; and, previous to my departure for England, the good folks of Woodside thought it well to present me with a parting gift in token of their goodwill. The chairman upon that occasion was the late Rev. Robert Forbes, and dear old John Connon and my dear stepfather were the chief speakers. The inscription which they placed on the testimonial that was given to me, and the kind, loving, sustaining words that were spoken, sank deep into my heart, and I can assure you that they exerted an influence on me and my conduct entirely through my life, both official and social. On that evening of the 29th May, 1839, a little seed was planted in my mind. That seed took root, and for the last forty-two years it has been growing, and has grown into the deed which I have signed before you all. Dear friends, the gift is for you and your children's children in perpetuity. With regard to the demonstration which you have made today in order to do me honour, I candidly confess that I am at a loss to express what I feel—in fact, I have no words that will give utterance to the emotions of my heart, but these I will say, that during the past two-and-forty years the good folks in Woodside have lived in my heart all the time, and as long as I live my ardent wish and prayer will be that the fear of God, with peace and prosperity, may dwell in every household on the banks and braes of Don.

Immediately after this meeting, a banquet was held in

the Burgh Hall, followed by a social meeting in the evening, at the latter of which Mr. George Duthie, head master of the Public School, read the following lines composed by Mrs. Hermon, a niece of Sir John Anderson's, and granddaughter of Mr. Irvine Kempt :—

THE OLD VILLAGE.

The dear old village is astir, and all things look their best,
With waving flag or graceful flower each happy home is drest ;
The old folks chat in busy groups, the young their kirtles don,
With garlands gay to greet their friend—the generous Sir John.

John—the beloved—such thy name to me,
For, looking through the mist of years, I see
A stately matron, might have graced proud Greece,
Or helped the knight to win the golden fleece.
And by her side, a softer, younger face,
With shadows of the elder's strength and grace,
And a sweet mobile beauty all its own,
And soft grey eyes, that laughed, or wept, or shone
With fire of latent genius, and these two
Whene'er they met had one theme ever new,
And ever sweet—the doings of their John.
His words, looks, thoughts, were all discussed anon,
While o'er their faces played the lambent flame
That glowed within at mention of the name.
And I sat listening by, and drank it in.
And wondered if such worship-love were sin,
And if he were indeed that king of men
They thought him. Well, I've lived a while since then,
And know we do not always reach our own ideal,
Discern the fleeting false from solid real.
But aiming at the "imaginable best"
Is God-like ; and therein he stands the test.
And with this thought has passed the mist of years,
And left me in a sadder mist of tears.
How can I help but wonder if they know
In their bright world to-day our parts below,
And if they come on strong, love-laden wings
And touch our life at its most secret springs,
Bidding us honour him they loved so well
And her who shared the love. We cannot tell ;

But one day we shall know; till then we rest
In His great love who doeth all things best.

True son, true brother to thine own, yet ne'er
Allowing that thy duty ended there,
But wheresoe'er the friendless sat apart
In double emptiness of cup and heart,
Speeding love-messages to cheer them up,
And sanctify the gold that filled their cup.
And whensoe'er a brother of the earth
Craved leave to toil, giving him scope and berth,
Nor grudging toil's bright guerdons, wealth or fame;
What marvel if thy fellows bless thy name?
Did'st think to scatter love with lavish hand
And hide thyself? like ostrich in the sand.
'Tis vain. The fairy little seed hath flown,
And, taking root, a goodly plant hath grown.
Long may its graceful shadow bless thy life,
And her who gladdens it—thine honoured wife.
Much pleasure may new dignities afford,
The worthiest citizen of Bon-Accord.
I hail all honours that can honour thee.
But looking on them all, my dimmed eyes see
Burgess and Knight with their proud pageants gone,
While stands my childhood's hero, Uncle John.

A general feeling prevailed among the inhabitants of Woodside to show in some tangible way their gratitude to Sir John Anderson for the noble gift of the Free Library, and the outcome of this feeling was to present him with his portrait, the presentation of which was made on Saturday, the 13th October, 1883.

The portrait, which was painted by George Reid, R.S.A., was presented in the Free Church to the Rev. Irvine Anderson, in the absence of his father, Sir John, through indisposition, by Lord Aberdeen, who was accompanied to the platform by Lady Aberdeen, Mrs. Littlejohn, Lord Reay, Dr. Farquharson, M.P.; Dr. Webster, M.P.; John Fyfe, Beechgrove; John F. White, John Crombie of Danestone, John Crombie of Balgownie Lodge, William Murray, Woodside House; Dr. James Will, of Woodside;

Dr. Fowler, Baillies David Smith, William Hutton, and Alexander Farquhar, &c.

Sir John is represented in the portrait, which is full length, seated at a table, his right arm resting on a chair, his left hand on his knee, a blotting pad on the table, a few sheets of completed manuscripts on the floor ; even the red tablecloth (an accessory which Mr. Reid has more than once treated with splendid elaboration) has only a light scroll of ornament.

The list of subscribers, upwards of 1700, is printed on 71 pages of vellum, is bound in dark-blue Morocco, double, finished in antique style, and has a very elegant appearance, and bears the following inscription :—

"Presented to Sir John Anderson, Knight, LL.D., &c., &c., by the inhabitants of Woodside, and other friends, along with a portrait of himself, painted by George Reid, R.S.A., and now hung on the walls of the Anderson Library, in token of their admiration of the eminent ability displayed by him in the service of his country, and more particularly for his noble generosity in presenting to his native place a well-equipped, beautifully-housed, and handsomely-endowed Library of over 9000 volumes."

The Rev. Irvine Anderson thanked Lord Aberdeen for the very kind words he had used regarding his father, and in the course of his address to readers he recommended great care and consideration in the selection of books, and thorough earnestness in their perusal.

The meeting, enthusiastic and largely representative, was afterwards addressed by Mr. Littlejohn, Dr. Webster, M.P., and Dr. Farquharson, M.P. Baillie David Smith, Woodside, after a neat and well-delivered speech, presented to the Earl of Aberdeen a beautifully-bound copy of the Catalogue of the Anderson Free Library, as a *souvenir* of the occasion.

No apology is needed for inserting the following lines, which were originally composed and meant to be

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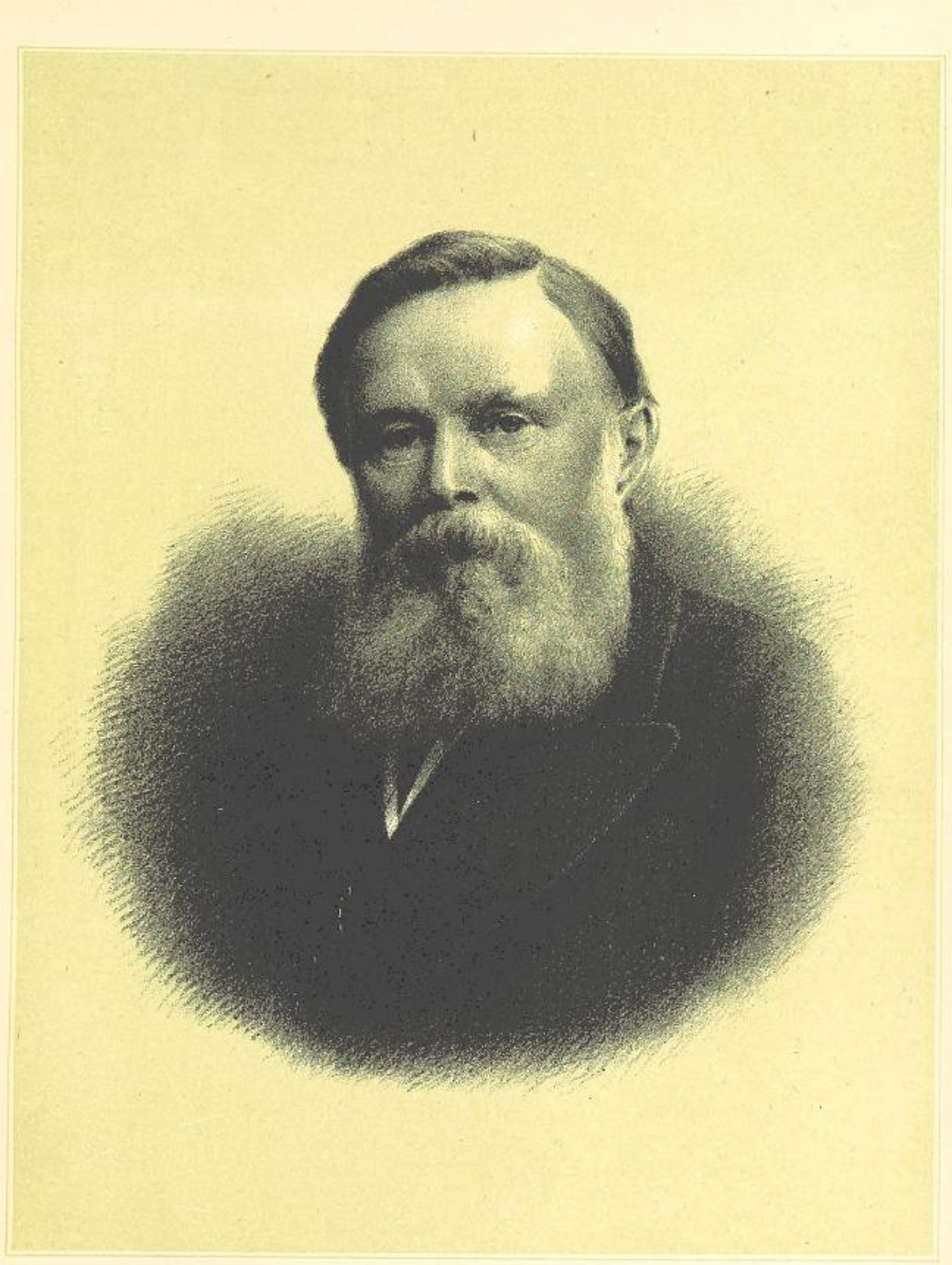

John Anderson Kt.

LL.D., C.E., F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E., F.S.A.,
Officer of the Legion of Honour, France,
and
Knight Commander of the Order of Franz Joseph, Austria.

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descriptive of Lady Anderson, Sir John's worthy partner in life :—

> Unfeigned and fervent prayers rise from our hearts
> For richest, choicest blessings on his head,
> And on the head of her who shares his lot,
> Sweet partner of his honoured, useful life.
> Her tender feelings and her kindly heart,
> Her thoughtful, homely love, so pure, so real,
> Shine out in all their loveliness and grace,
> Encircling round her brow a lovely wreath,
> Of noble beauty and of moral worth,
> Surpassing all mere earthly gaudy show—
> A rich and priceless diadem—a crown
> Of fadeless, endless, durability.

DR. FERRIER.

David Ferrier, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., son of Mr. David Ferrier, a well-known resident at Woodside for more than half a century, was born in No. 35 Hadden Street, Woodside, in the year 1843. He received the rudiments of his education under the late Mr. Alexander Michie, teacher in Woodside School. He afterwards attended the Grammar School and Gymnasium, Old Aberdeen. He entered the University of Aberdeen as a student of Arts in 1859, having gained the first place in the competition for bursaries. He graduated as Master of Arts in 1863, with double first-class honours in Classics and Philosophy. In the same year he gained the Ferguson Scholarship in Classics and Philosophy, open to competition to graduates of the four Scottish Universities. In 1864 Dr. Ferrier went to Heidelberg University, where he prosecuted his psychological studies, and also began the study of Anatomy, Physiology, and Chemistry. In 1865, he commenced his medical studies proper at the University of Edinburgh. He gained most of the University medals in his various classes, and graduated as Bachelor of Medicine, with first-class honours, in 1868. After his graduation as M.B., he continued at the University as

assistant to Dr. Laycock. Dr. Ferrier went, in 1869, to act as assistant to Mr. Image, of Bury St. Edmunds. Here he remained for a year, where he had leisure to prosecute his researches in the comparative anatomy and histology of the brain. Some of the results of these researches he published, for which he was awarded the gold medal on his graduation as M.D., in 1870. In the same year Dr. Ferrier went to London to assist Dr. Sanderson, and also to lecture on Physiology in the Middlesex Hospital. These appointments Dr. Ferrier resigned for that of Demonstrator of Physiology in King's College, in 1871. In the following year he was chosen to succeed Dr. Guy in the Chair of Forensic Medicine—the Chair which he now holds. Dr. Ferrier was appointed junior physician to the West of London Hospital in 1872, assistant physician to King's College in 1874, and physician in 1880. He also acted as assistant physician to the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, from 1877 to 1880, when he was appointed physician to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1876, and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1877. In 1883, his *Alma Mater*, the University of Aberdeen, conferred on him the honorary distinction of LL.D. In 1876, he published his "Functions of the Brain," and, in 1878, his "Localisation of Cerebral Disease."

Dr. Ferrier pursues his scientific investigations in the spare hours and holidays he can snatch from his professional work. He practises as a physician, devoting his special attention to diseases of the nervous system.

The foregoing notice is mostly taken from the Portrait Gallery of the *Provincial Medical Journal*, September, 1885.

WILLIAM MURRAY.

Mr. William Murray was born at Woodside in the year 1820, and in his early days attended Mr. Clark's School,

Trained to the business of a flesher, he started on his own account at Woodside, and by assiduity and skill soon attained to a good position. After some years he extended his business to an extraordinary extent, having premises in the principal cities of the west, east, and north of Scotland, as well as in London and Liverpool. Mr. Murray is well known in America as one of the most prominent men in his line. In the year 1861 he obtained a lease of the extensive farm of Tipperty, Logie-Buchan, which he cultivated after the most advanced style of agriculture. After the expiry of this lease, in 1880, he devoted his whole attention to his other business. To his indefatigable energy, enterprise, and natural shrewdness, together with his sterling Christian principles, which have guided him throughout his whole career, may be attributed his marked success in life. Mr. Murray resides mostly at Woodside House, and is much appreciated by the inhabitants of Woodside for his open-handed and kind-hearted liberality.

It will be seen on page 83 that the Presbytery appointed the Rev. Dr. Forbes, Oldmachar, to preach and open the Woodside Chapel of Ease on the forenoon of Sabbath, 9th May, 1830, and the Rev. John Duncan in the afternoon; and it may here be mentioned that the Rev. Dr. Kidd of Gilcomston preached to an overflowing congregation in the evening, taking as the ground of his discourse Psalm cxxxii., 4th to 7th verse inclusive—"I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob. Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood. We will go into his tabernacles; we will worship at his footstool." Although many much valued members of Dr. Kidd's congregation, resident at Woodside and in the surrounding districts, would naturally attach themselves to the newly erected Chapel of Ease,

the Doctor nevertheless rejoiced in this much needed extension of Gospel privileges to the locality.

The following is a list of the names of the ministers of the Established Church, Woodside, since the Disruption of 1843:—

1846—Rev. James Ross Sutherland, M.A.
1849—Rev. James Wallis.
1854—Rev. Malcolm Munro Ross, M.A.
1859—Rev. William Murray Keay, M.A.
1873—Rev. William Shepherd, M.A.
1885—Rev. John Ogilvie, M.A.

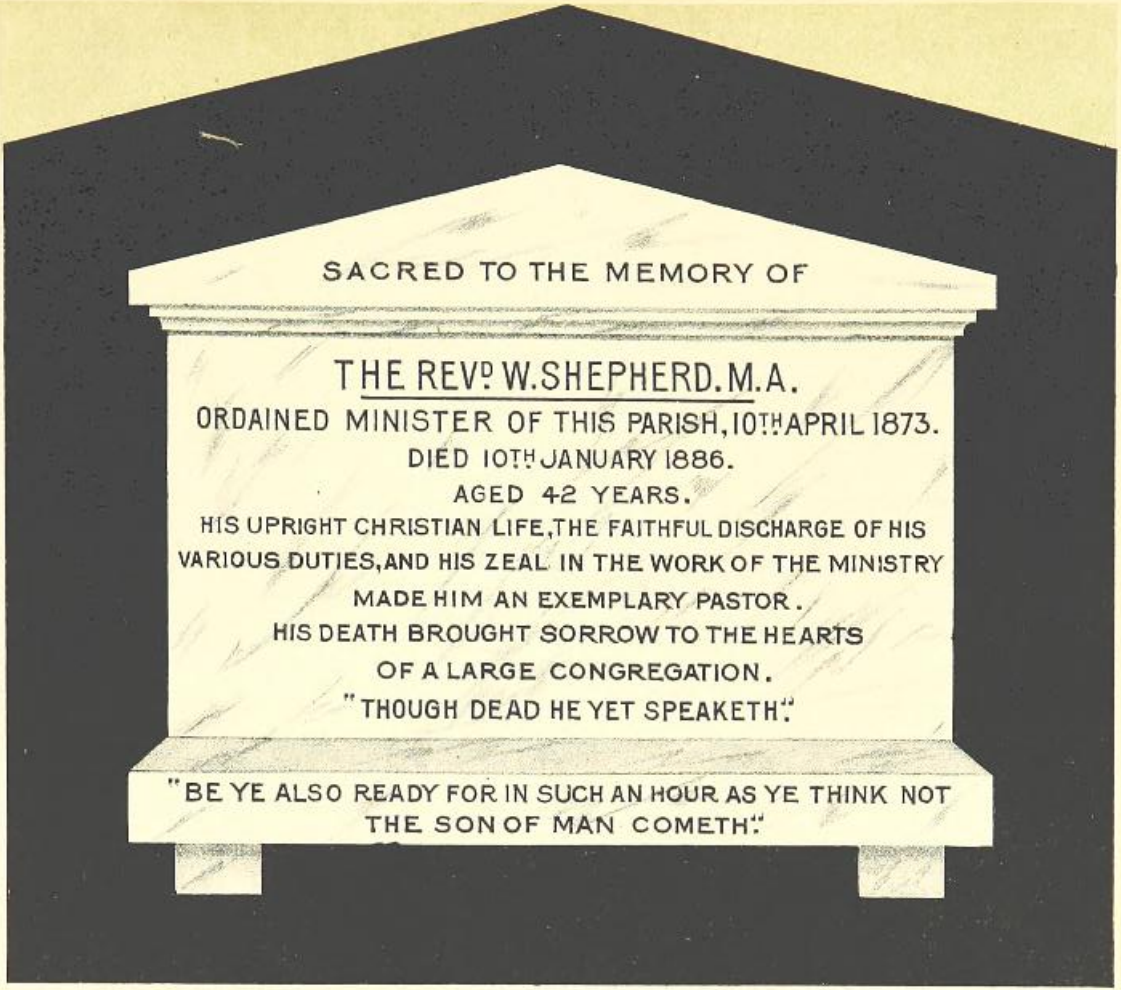
Woodside was constituted a Police Burgh 7th June, 1868. The following is a list of the Magistrates from that date:—

1868	John Crombie, Jun.,	Chief Magistrate.
	David Ferrier,	Baillie.
	Dr. James E. Fowler,	Baillie.
1871	Dr. James E. Fowler,	Chief Magistrate.
	David Smith,	Baillie.
	Alexander Farquhar,	Baillie.
1874	John Crombie, Jun.,	Chief Magistrate.
	David Smith,	Baillie.
	Alexander Farquhar,	Baillie.
1877	David Littlejohn,	Chief Magistrate.
	David Smith,	Baillie.
	Alexander Farquhar,	Baillie.
1879	David Littlejohn,	Chief Magistrate.
	David Smith,	Baillie.
	William Hutton,	Baillie.

These last three have held office every year till now (1886).

The following list of the Bishops of Aberdeen, from 1545 to 1682, will indicate more fully the names of those referred to in the list of Charters in page 75:—

1545—William Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly, the last Roman Catholic Prelate in Aberdeen, who died in the year 1577.


SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REVD W. SHEPHERD. M.A.
ORDAINED MINISTER OF THIS PARISH, 10TH APRIL 1873.
DIED 10TH JANUARY 1886.
AGED 42 YEARS.
HIS UPRIGHT CHRISTIAN LIFE, THE FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF HIS VARIOUS DUTIES, AND HIS ZEAL IN THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY MADE HIM AN EXEMPLARY PASTOR.
HIS DEATH BROUGHT SORROW TO THE HEARTS OF A LARGE CONGREGATION.
"THOUGH DEAD HE YET SPEAKETH."
"BE YE ALSO READY FOR IN SUCH AN HOUR AS YE THINK NOT THE SON OF MAN COMETH."

MEMORIAL TABLET
IN THE
VESTIBULE OF THE WOODSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

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1577—David Cunningham, Sub-Dean of Glasgow, the first Protestant Bishop, and Minister of St. Nicholas Church, died 13th August, 1600.

1600—Peter Blackburne, died 14th June, 1616. "He was more mindful of a purse of v^{c} merks in it than anything else."*

1616—Alexander Forbes, translated from Caithness; died 24th November, 1617, aged 53.

1618—Patrick Forbes of Corse, died 28th March, 1635, in his 71st year.

1635—Adam Bellenden; was deposed by General Assembly, 13th December, 1638, for his adherence to Episcopacy; died in 1647, aged about 78.

1662—David Mitchell, D.D., died January, 1663, aged 72. A little man of brisk, lively temper, well learned, a good preacher, of irreproachable life.

1663—Alexander Burnet, baptised 6th August, 1615—translated to Glasgow.

1664—Patrick Scougal, D.D., appointed by Charles II., consecrated by Archbishop Sharp at St. Andrews; died 16th February, 1682, in his 75th year.

1682—George Halliburton. He was ejected soon after the Revolution in 1688, and died 29th September, 1715, aged 76 years.

*This is from Scott's "Fasti Eccl. Scot.," but it is only fair to remark that Kennedy, in his "Annals of Aberdeen," says, "Neither he (Peter Blackburne), nor his predecessor ever enjoyed any part of the Episcopal revenue, being contented with the small stipend which they received from the Magistrates of Aberdeen as Parochial Clergymen."

Newhills.

WE now come to the Parish of Newhills, which is adjacent to Woodside, and we shall endeavour to present to the reader a record of the past history of this important Parish, so far as we have been able to gather it from the best sources within our reach.

A description of the present appearance and condition of the Parish, with its many objects and places worthy of notice, would no doubt be interesting, but, as our purpose is chiefly to deal with the past, our references to the present must necessarily be limited.

The greatest length of the parish is 6½ miles, and the greatest breadth 4¾ miles. The whole area is computed to be 10,321 acres, and the population 5480, to which we shall more particularly refer in the Appendix.

Description of the Parish of Newhills, Aberdeenshire, in 1725, from "Macfarlane's Geographical Collections."

"The Parish of Newhills, in the shire of Aberdeen, hath to the north the Parish of Dyce; to the south, the Parish of Banchory-Devenick; to the east, the Parish of Old-machar, and about a mile of it bounded by the water of Don; to the west, the Parish of Skene; to the south-west, the Parish of Peterculter; to the north-west, the Parish of Kinnellar. The church is three miles to the north-west of the town of Aberdeen, and stands in the middle of the parish.

"The House of Craibstone is north from the church half a mile. The House of Stoneywood is east from Craibstone a short mile, and distant from the church one and a half

miles to the east. It stands close on the river Don, which falls into the sea a little below the town of Old Aberdeen, standing on the south side of it. The House of Sclattie stands to the south-west of Stoneywood about a large quarter of a mile ; and the House of Whitemyres, *alias* New Parks, stands to the south-west of Sclattie two miles, and distant from the church a long mile to the south. The place of Kingswells stands to the west of New Parks about three-fourths of a mile, and distant from the church about two long miles to the south-west.

"The north road goes through the east end of this parish about two short miles ; upon which road is to be met with the Bridge of Buxburn, built by George Davidson, the builder of the kirk and mortifier of the stipend of Newhills. The burn, whose head is about three miles from the road, falls into the Don a little below the bridge, which is about a quarter a mile from Sclattie to the south-east. There is no other considerable burn in the parish, save the Denburn and Greenburn, remarkable for nothing—the one running into the Don at Stoneywood, the other into the shore at Trinity Church, Aberdeen. There is in this parish, about a mile to the north of the church, the 'ruines of ane old Popish chappell,' in the yard of which there is still persons buried, and remarkable for a well, 'reckined medicinall, whither crowds flock about the beginning of May. It's said to be good for the stomack, and for cleansing and curing any ulcerous tumours or any part of the body when bathed with it.'

"About two miles north from the church there is a large spring, the head of that large burn that affords water to the Justice Mills, not far from Aberdeen, and runs by Ferryhill somewhere into Dee. There is likewise a public road, which goes through Alford to the Highlands ; about two miles of it is within this parish, on which road are the houses of New Parks and Kingswells. The parish is miserably divided with mountains ; one large hill, about a quarter of a mile west of the church, named Bruman, *alias*

Druman ; 'twill be one and a half mile long, of unequal breadth, in some places broader, in some narrower.

"Near this hill to the north is a less hill, named Elrick Hill, and a long track of rocky ground with considerable little hills, and a great house, ordinarily called the House of Stoneywood. There is another large moor about a mile from the church to the south-east, named Carngully ; but it reaches a large piece out without the parish into the old town bounds.

"There are a vast deal of small mosses scattered up and down through the parish. The most considerable are the back moss at the foot of Bruman Hill, *alias* Druman Hill ; the road moss is about one and a half mile to the south-west of the church ; and a moss that's usually called The Free Moss, so large that it does not confine itself to one parish, and out of which all that belonged to the freedom of Aberdeen have liberty to cast peat. There are some other inconsiderable mosses and hills scarce worth noticing ; yea, few places within the parish but affords fewel except the corn ridges."

The Buxburn referred to in the preceding description has its rise in a place in Kingswells called Rae-den ; the old name was *Roe*-den, hence the name Bucks-burn, now spelt Buxburn. The Denburn also has its rise in Kingswells and the Brodiach-burn as well.

Hill of Brimmond.

THE most noticeable eminence in the Parish of Newhills is the Hill of Brimmond, already referred to in "Macfarlane's Description of Newhills." It is 870 feet above sea level, and between five and six hundred acres in extent. Though of no great height, it is conspicuous from various points, and is one of the first leading landmarks on the coast of Aberdeenshire.

Nearly three hundred years ago it was selected as the most suitable site for beacon fires, the rudest form of telegraphic communication of those times, as the following quaint quotation shows :—

HILL OF BRIMMOND.

"22nd August, 1627. The which day Mr. Thomas Johnston, Baillie Alexander Jaffray, and Mr. Alexander Jaffray, and David Adye ar appointed be the Councell to go to the Hill of Brymound within the freidome of this burgh and thair to mark and designe the most commodious pairt for setting up ane fyir bitt to give notice to the countrie pople of the approtcheing of foran enemies, as likwayes to considder quhat pairt about the toune is most fitting for ane uther fyir bitt and best answerable and most conspicuous to give show and warning to the keipar of the fyir bitt on the said Hill of Brymound, and ordaines the foirnamed persones to report thair dilligence to the Councell, that accordinglie ordour may be geivin for upputting of the saidis fyir bittes ; as also for interteaning and keiping tham upoun to the quhilk directioun the saids Commissioners went to the said Hill of Brymound and thair designed and marked the most conspicuous pairt for

up-putting ane fyir thairupon and causit gadder and erect ane great cairne of stanes thairat quhilkes thay causit to be buildet, prepaired, and maid fit for receaveing of the said fyir bitt and siclyk thay declaired that the east gavill of the chappell on the Castel Hill is the most convenient pairt about the toune for setting up the first fyir bitt and will give the best and cleirest demonstratioun to the uther fyir bit on the said Hill of Brymound. Quhilk report and duyse being considderet be the Councell, thay allow thairof and ordaines the same to be put in execution accordinglie with all convenient diligence possible."—*From "Burgh Records."*

A little north of the Hill of Brimmond is the well-known "Doupin Stane," the most northerly point of the outer marches of the City of Aberdeen (No. 34 stone).

The following is from an account of the riding of the outer marches of the City of Aberdeen in October 1861 (the phraseology is intentionally antiquated) :—

"At this part the whole concourse collected, a little beyond the Burgh Moss, whaur there wis little encouragement to ride, an' less to travel, and little to be seen but heather banks and spret bogs, an' here an' there a tuft o' lavrock's lent. Across the howe to the wast is the Hill o' Kier, wi' its single barmykin, an' doun the howe, the mossy hollow o' the Blin' Burn. Northward a bank-set brae closed in the sicht o' the Hill o' Tire Bagger an' the Vale o' Don, an' up at oor backs lay the bleak Hill o' Brimmond, or, as somehoo it has been called, the Newhill, as if it wis a matter o' modern creation, or, at least, a recent discovery in the topography o' the north.

"Weel, here under the braid blazenrie o' the toun's banner, began the wark o' makin' burgesses, after a fashion as ancient as fr[illegible]. They ha'e the same way o' admittin' a new shearer to the hairst rig, and the term is the 'begeant*

* The word "begeant," or "bajan," still applied to the junior students at the University, is a corruption of the French *becs jaunes*, literally yellow beaks, or fledgelings.

heuck.' Sae begeant is nae only a beginner at college, but a beginner at reapin'. As the latter is initiated by horsin', the former micht hae been ance the same, and sae wi' Dykeside burgesses made at the 'Doupin Stane' at the Landimyres, at the back o' the Brimmond Hill. The first wha wis honoured by this rearward introduction into the honourable Gild wis Mr. William Anderson, son o' oor worthy Provost, wha wis officially hoisted by some civic dignitaries and subjected to this formal and venerable ordeal o' inauguration. Neist cam' oor distinguished tounsman, Mr. John Anderson, superintendent o' the Arsenal, Woolwich—great amang the great guns; and after him ane or twa ither ambitious aspirants to the honours o' the 'Doupin Stane.' To the Superintendent o' the Royal Arsenal the Provost (Sir Alexander Anderson) made the following short but pithy speech, to wit:—'Now, Mr. Anderson, we have given you something to take home with you. You can tell your friends at Woolwich that your old fellow-townsmen can appreciate a creditable citizen, and that they have done so in your case this day by electing you a douped free burgess of Dykeside'—(loud cheers)."

Referring to the great extent of land which was at one time the property of the town, the same writer says:—

"Weel, a' this land wis ance on a day the toun's quoy-land or common, and little, as I have said before, wis gotten for it. Within a' the wide circuit wis a barren waste, as a Covenanter's ghaist is said to hae remarkit at a midnicht meeting in Marischal College Close:—

When we were here, the country side
Round Brimmond back, and up to Skene,
Wis ae bleak muir o' sax-mile wide,
Wi' scarce a single patch o' green,
Ae patch o' corn, ae rig o' girse,
Except about some cottar's biel';
When rievin' caterans cam' frae Birse,
They scarcely saw a coo to steal.

Noo whare's the muir the lan' is blest ;
The hearts that heaven for conquest made,
The hands that scorn the sweets o' rest,
Hae raised a garden in its sted.
There simmer walks through fertile fields,
An' brenns na mair the naked heath ;
Its wealth the fruitful autumn yields,
And winter bates his frosty breath.

"The country side is nae great things to boast o' i' the way o' beauty ; but it has gude land and bien hooses, wi' mair windskews than thack-gates o' the gavel ; it has grown up out o' naething, and been nae doot a profitable thing, baith to the citizens generally an' to the baillies wha bocht it in particular."

The old church in Newhills was built in 1662, as a Chapel of Ease, by George Davidson of Pettens, burgess of Aberdeen, who mortified the lands of Capelhills,* consisting of nearly 700 acres, as an endowment for the support of the minister ; in consequence of which, the south-west corner of the extensive parish of Old Machar was erected into a separate parish by the Commissioners of Teinds 21st February, 1666. These lands of Capelhills (probably deriving their name from *Capella*, a chapel), now assumed the name of Newhills, and from them the whole parish was denominated.

George Davidson above mentioned (who is said to have acquired his fortune as a pedlar), besides building the Chapel of Ease, afterwards the Parish Church of Newhills, and the first stone bridge over the Buxburn, left the lands of Bogfairly and Pettens for charitable purposes ; and at his own expense enclosed by a stone wall the ground surrounding St. Clement's Church, Aberdeen, for a cemetery, which wall bears the following inscription :—

GEORGE DAVID
SONE ELDER BVRGES
OF ABD. BIGIT THIS
DYK. ON HIS OVIN
EXPENSES—1650
G D

* These lands were purchased from the town of Aberdeen, and are now valued at £750 a-year.

RUINS OF OLD CHURCH NEWHILLS.

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On the 8th of March, 1560, Gilbert Menzies resigned the lands of Bogfairlay in favour of Thomas Lindesay, burgess of Aberdeen, whose son, David Lindsay, on the 21st day of June, 1591, sold the lands to John Bannerman, burgess of Aberdeen, for the sum of 4250 merks Scots. In the year 1598, John Bannerman sold the lands for 5500 merks Scots to Patrick Donaldson, who, in the year 1620, sold them to James Cruickshank for 6250 merks. (Originals in the archives of the City of Aberdeen). In 1648, James Cruickshank granted the lands to George Davidson, burgess of Aberdeen, who, in the year 1662, bequeathed them and the lands of Pettens and Westburn, in the Parish of Belhelvie, for the payment of the stipend to a minister of the burgh of Aberdeen, any surplus remaining being for the benefit of the "Guild Box" of the burgh (*Ibid*, and "Mortifications under the charge of Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Aberdeen, printed by order of the Town Council, Aberdeen, 1849," pp. 141-143).

The oldest ecclesiastical site in Newhills is probably that which lies nearly two miles to the north of the Parish Church, and upon the south side of the Inverurie turnpike road. It was dedicated to the Virgin, and called the Chapel of Stoneywood. This Kirk of St. Mary at Stoneywood was probably disused when the district was erected into a parish in 1666. The burying ground, where there are a number of headstones, is enclosed by a wall, but is not much used.

The ivy-clad ruins of the old Parish Church, erected in 1662, stand within the Burying-ground of Newhills. About the year 1830 a new church was built a little to the eastward.

It would appear by the following report of a decision of the Court of Session in 1811, that the heirs or executors of George Davidson, who died in 1663, were somewhat dilatory in carrying out his benevolent purpose in regard to the Parish of Newhills, and Bishop Scougal had to "pursue" an action, in 1666, against the said heirs to implement

the intentions of the generous donor of the lands of Kepplehills. A report of this action would have been interesting, as well as a copy of George Davidson's deed of mortification; but a fire having occurred in the Register House, Edinburgh, by which a number of the Court records were lost, it is presumed that the manuscript papers of the action in February, 1666, were amongst them. The only direct references in the Court books to the action referred to are set forth in the report of the decision of the Court of Session in 1811 quoted below :—

"*Decision of the Court of Session in reference to the Stipend of the Minister of Newhills.*

"TEINDS.

"*January 23rd*, 1811.

"Reverend GEORGE ALLAN
against
KING'S COLLEGE, Aberdeen.

"TEINDS—AUGMENTATION.—A considerable provision of land having been mortified for the support of the minister of a parish, it was found, that although not thereby barred from pursuing an ordinary process of Augmentation, yet the incumbent was bound to shew that he was not suitably provided; and it appearing that the rent of the mortified lands was a suitable provision, an augmentation from the teinds of the parish was, in the circumstances of the case, refused.

"In the year 1663, George Davidson of Pettens, and other individuals, built a church on the lands of Newhills, and mortified certain lands, to the extent of 500 acres, situated about three or four miles from the present town of Aberdeen, for the support of the minister who should officiate therein. The original deed of mortification was not produced, and was alleged to have been lost; so that the precise date of it did not appear. The heirs of these pious persons had not fulfilled their intentions; for, from

an index to the teind record, it appears that Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen* (21st February, 1666), had pursued an action against the said heirs to implement the intentions of their predecessors. The proceedings are noticed in the following terms :—

"Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, for himself, and as having interest in the oversight in matters ecclesiastical within his diocese, wherein the well and benefit of the parishioners and kirks therein are concerned, pursues a summons, mentioning, that where umquhile George Davidson of Pettens caused build a kirk upon the lands of Newhills, and he and sundry others did mortify towards the stipends thereof, and that it is not established yet, nor erected : Therefore he pursues the representatives of the mortifiers, and others, for payment of the sum mortified. The Lords erects the said kirk in a new parish, and mortifies the stipend thereto ; and disjoins several lands from the parish of St. Machar, and annexes them thereto ; and ordains the inhabitants to repair to it so soon as a minister shall be legally settled there ; because the bishop declared a great necessity of the said execution ; and as to the dismembration, reservand to the town and college of Aberdeen, and others having interest, all their lawful defences.

* The following is a short account of Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, by whose exertions Newhills was erected into a parish in 1666 :—

"Patrick Scougal, D.D., promoted from Salton, appointed by Charles II., 25th February, 1664, and consecrated (at St. Andrews, by James, the Archbishop, assisted by others) 11th April ; died 16th February, 1682, in his 75th year. He was a person of rare temper, great piety and prudence, though perhaps too much under the influence of Archbishop Sharp. In appearance 'he was tall and stooping, big-eyed, grey-haired, and of a fearful [grave, or reverential] aspect.' He was the father of Henry Scougal, the pious and learned Professor of Divinity in King's College, and father-in-law to Bishop Scrogie, of Argyll, and also of Dr. Patrick Sibbald, Professor of Divinity in Marischal College."—Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ*.

"It appeared in the year 1705, the members of King's College, Aberdeen, the titulars of the Parish of Newhills, granted to the minister a relief and discharge of the teind duty payable by the mortified lands, on account of the smallness of the rental, and its inadequacy to support the benefice.

"In the year 1724, an augmentation was granted out of the teinds of the parish, making the benefice (including the mortification) at that time amount to 800 merks, with 40 merks for communion elements.* From that period no demand had been made for an augmentation from the teinds."

"In the year 1809, the Rev. George Allan, the incumbent, pursued an ordinary process of augmentation; and it was admitted in the summons that the rent of the mortified lands amounted to £166 18s. In the course of the action, it appeared that by the year 1823 the rent would be £200 per annum, besides certain kain and small services, and the rent of about 10 acres in the natural possession of the minister.

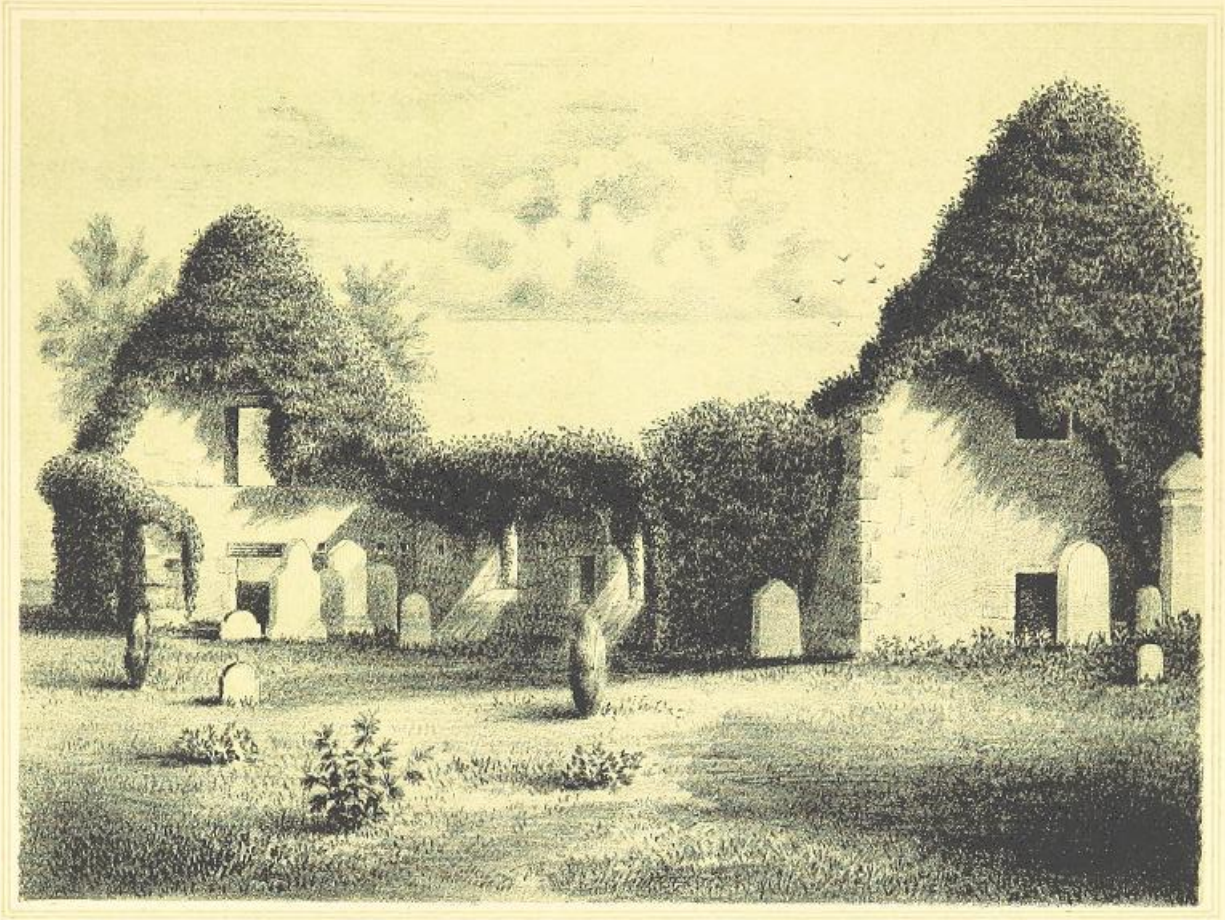
"The members of King's College of Aberdeen, the titulars of the teinds of the Parish of Newhills, opposed the augmentation.

"The parties disputed upon the fact, whether the Parish of Newhills was a separate parish from Old Machar, and had ever been regularly disjoined from it, and whether the Kirk was not a Chapel of Ease; and therefore a benefice

*A Scots merk was equal to 1s. 1⅓d. of English money. The annual income of the minister, the Rev. James Howe, at that date was £46 13s. 4d., with a small thatched cottage for a manse.

Mr. Howe's case recalls to our memory the lines of Goldsmith:—

"Near yonder copse, where once the garden smiled,
And still where many a garden flower grows wild;
There, where a few torn shrubs the place disclose,
The village preacher's modest mansion rose,
A man he was to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a-year."



RUINS OF OLD CHURCH. NEWHILL S. 2nd VIEW.

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having no claim upon the teinds. But the Court were satisfied that there was good evidence of the disjunction and new erection of the Parish of Newhills.

"On the point whether, and to what extent, the mortification could be taken into consideration in determining the amount of augmentation,

"The *defenders maintained*—That in awarding the augmentation, the amount of the mortified lands must be taken into account. The present rent of them was a sufficient and decent maintenance for the incumbent; and the teinds were only liable to this effect. From their vicinity to Aberdeen, and their extent, the mortified lands would soon render the benefice more affluent than was consistent with the policy of the Church of Scotland, and the present rent of them was a suitable provision. Besides the mortification being of the same date with the disjunction, it was probable that the disjunction would not have taken place if the mortification had not been made; and that the mortification was intended as a relief to the teinds.

"The *pursuer maintained*—That the mortified lands could not be taken into account in awarding the augmentation. The mortification must be presumed to have been made, not for the benefit and relief of the heritors, but for the advantage of the incumbent, and for the enrichment of the benefice alone. The incumbent was by law entitled to a suitable provision out of the teinds. The lands were held under this burden. The incumbent was entitled to the provision established by law, besides what the bounty of individuals might bestow. It might as well be maintained that the private fortune of an incumbent should be admitted as a temporary relief to the heritors, during his incumbency, from an augmentation, as that a mortification should be admitted as a perpetual relief.

"*Lord Robertson* observed that there was most satisfactory evidence (which had not been noticed by either of the parties) that the lands of Newhills and others have been disjoined from the Parish of Old Machar, and erected into a

new and separate parish ; and this evidence was the decree of the High Commissioner of date 26th February, 1666 ; the note of which, as already quoted, his lordship read, taken from an index of the teinds records.

" That every parochial minister had a claim on the teinds of his parish for a suitable and competent stipend. In the ordinary case, where land or money was mortified to the minister of a parish, the law would presume it to have been intended for the benefit of the minister, and not to relieve the heritors or the titulars of the teinds from a payment to which they are by law liable. When such a mortification was inconsiderable, and was given to the minister of an existing parish, the Court would probably be disposed to lay it entirely out of view, and to give a suitable augmentation out of the teinds. But in this case the mortification was very considerable, and fully sufficient for the maintenance of the minister at the time. It was given not to the minister of an existing parish, but a new parish had been erected, in consequence of a mortification having been made sufficient for the endowment of the minister, and although there was nothing to warrant the opinion that the teinds of the new parish were in no event to be liable for any part of the minister's stipend, however inadequate the mortified fund might prove, yet his lordship thought that in the circumstances of this case, the teinds were liable only *subsidiarie*, in so far as the mortified fund was not sufficient to afford a suitable stipend to the minister. His lordship, therefore, was for sustaining the pursuer's title to insist in the ordinary process of augmentation, but was of opinion that it laid on him to show that he was not already sufficiently provided.

" The other judges delivered opinions to the same purpose,

" And the interlocutor of the Court was (23rd May, 1810): —' Sustain action at the pursuer's instance as competent, in respect that Newhills is a distinct parish ; and appoint parties to be ready to debate on the grounds and reasons of augmentation.'

"And (23rd January, 1811) the interlocutor was—'Dismiss the process, and assoilzie the defenders.'"

The following is a list of the names of incumbents of the Parish of Newhills since George Davidson built the Church, with some particulars regarding each, which are chiefly taken from Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ*:—

"1663—George Melvill. For this no other authority has been discovered, but he may have officiated a short time between going from New Machar to Udny."—(*New Stat. Acct.*)

By deed, dated the 7th day of March, 1663, the above-named George Davidsone, having built the Kirk of Newhills, bequeathed to Mr. George Melvill at Newkirk [New Machar?], whom he appointed minister at the kirk he had built, and to his successors serving the cure of the said kirk, for payment of the minister's stipend in all things requisite to the ministerial calling, his town and lands of Kingshill (or Kepplehills), extending to five ploughs, in the Parish of St. Machar, and freedom of Aberdeen.—(Copy in the archives of the King's College and University, Aberdeen).

166 —Alexander Middleton, A.M., Principal of King's College, Aberdeen, which he held in conjunction, demitting his charge in 1679; he died in December, 1686, aged 76 years, and 31st of his ministry. He was 8 years Regent, 11 years Sub-Principal, and 23 years Principal of King's College, and was succeeded in the latter office by his son, Dr. George Middleton.

1679—Thomas Crevey, A.M., sometimes spelled Creve and Creven. He was the son of John Crevey, Old Aberdeen, born 8th September, 1644; obtained his degree at the University and King's College, 30th April, 1663; presented by the Principal and Masters of said College, and installed 10th June, 1679; he gave xx merks towards repairing the southern part of the buildings of King's College 21st June, 1688; became Synod Clerk, and protested against the

Assembly's Committee for the North; 'was evicted for adultery and incest,' deprived by Parliament 1st July, 1695, and went to Ireland, where he was challenged.

1697—Martin Schank, A.M., translated from Auchtertool, admitted 29th April; and translated to Banchory-Ternan 10th May, 1699. We give the following extract from the Presbytery register dated 17th February, 1698:—"Last Sabbath at Newhills, Margaret Jaffray, daughter of Andrew Jaffray of Kingswells, coming with other Quakers, entered the church and cried, 'Do not believe that deceiver,' and said she was sent of God to tell them he was about to destroy all idolatry and will worship." It was most likely Mr. Schank who had been subjected to this interruption.

1700—James Hutcheson, A.M., formerly of Edinburgh, (Greyfriars Church), called 28th July, and admitted 15th August; translated to Fintray in 1702.

1702—Robert Burnett, A.M., eldest son of Thomas Burnett, merchant, Rotterdam, afterwards in Aberdeen, residing in the parish of Old Machar, formerly of Monigaff, called 23rd August, and admitted 10th September; the General Assembly, 28th March, 1704, remitted to the Commission to use their utmost diligence for removing his grievances, and to assist him in the process anent his stipend. The reader will see by the record of the case of the Rev. George Allan, already quoted, that in 1705, Mr. Burnett was successful in obtaining some redress of his grievances. Between the 20th May and 22nd June, 1715, when about 60 years of age, he was led in a fit of insanity to commit suicide within the church with the bell rope. It is said that the pulpit Bible was found lying open beside the body of Mr. Burnett, and that the 13th, 14th, and 15th verses of the seventh chapter of Job were marked by his own hand.—"Thou scarest me with dreams and terrifiest me through visions; so that my soul chooseth strangling and death rather than my life." He was considered, in the popular belief of the time, to have been the

victim of witchcraft. He married Elizabeth Thomson, who died 2nd December, 1728, and had two sons and three daughters—Thomas, Robert, Janet, Elizabeth, and Christian.

1716—James Howe, licensed by the Presbytery, 27th July, 1715, called by them *jure devoluto* 3rd October, and admitted 12th December, 1716; had A.M. from the University and King's College, Aberdeen, 9th March, 1725.

The following is a copy of an inscription on a tablet fixed on the wall of the old Church at Newhills :—

"To the memory of the Rev. James Howe, for 52 years the worthy minister of the Gospel of this Parish of Newhills, who died 3rd October, 1768, aged 80 years; also his brother, the Rev. Alexander Howe, the worthy minister of the Gospel of the Parish of Methlic and of Tarves for 36 years, who died 3rd September, A.D. 1765, aged 60 years. And also of their aunt, Mrs. Anne Howe, who died December 8th, A.D. 1748, aged 89 years; all interred in this church; also Mrs. Betty Howe, their sister, who died July 15th, 1769, aged 78."

The writer has seen a volume of sermons published by the above James Howe, which was in possession of the late Mr. Alexander Howie, Buxburn.

1770—Alexander Temple, A.M., translated from Dyce, presented by the Principal and Masters of King's College, Aberdeen, in March, 1769, and admitted 17th January following; died after a few days' illness, 13th July, 1771, aged about 36, in the 4th year of his ministry.

1771—John Brown, translated from Rhynie and Essie, presented by James Earl of Fife in September, and admitted 28th November; had D.D. from University and King's College, Aberdeen, 6th August, 1782.

The following is a copy of an inscription on a marble tablet in the east wall of the Kirk-yard at Newhills :—

"The Rev. John Brown, D.D., minister of the Word of God, first at Rhynie for 20 years, and afterwards at Newhills, for nearly 32 years. A man virtuous and benevolent,

cheerful, pleasant, and ever deeply endeared to his friends; died 1803, aged 79. His wife Barbara Gordon, pious, gentle and kind, died 1798, aged 65." They had three sons and two daughters, John, Thomas, and Alexander—the latter was Lieutenant of the "York" R. N.; Annie was married to the Rev. George Allan, assistant to her father, and the other daughter was married to Charles Todd, of Bengal. Dr. Brown published an account of the parish (see Sinclair's *Statistical Account*, VI).

1798—George Allan, A.M., son of Joseph Allan, Skene, took his degree from Marischal College and University of Aberdeen in 1774. Licensed by the Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil, 5th February, 1780, and ordained by them 25th September, 1782, as assistant to Mr. John Abel, minister of Echt; presented to the Parish of Newhills by James Earl of Fife, in February, 1798, and admitted assistant and successor, 14th March, 1798, and died 1st July, 1823, aged 66. He married 22nd March, 1799, Barbara Ann Brown, who died 24th December, 1835, aged 72. She had a daughter Barbara who was married to James Nicol, advocate, Aberdeen.

1824—James Allan, A.M., a native of Inverkeithing, a graduate at the University and King's College, Aberdeen, in 1792; licensed by the Presbytery of Garioch, 20th March, 1799; was a candidate for the Gilcomston Chapel of Ease, along with Dr. James Kidd, when the Rev. James Gregory was translated from that charge to Banchory-Ternan, in succession to the Rev. Francis Dauney, who died in the year 1800. Mr. Allan was schoolmaster, Chapel of Garioch, when he was presented to Newhills by the trustees of James Earl of Fife, in December, 1823, and ordained 11th March, succeeding; got a new church built in 1830, and died 22nd March, 1857, in the 84th year of his age, and 34th of his ministry. He married 22nd March, 1809, Jane Ronald, who died 18th June, 1859, aged 64 years, and had four sons and four daughters. Alexander, minister of New Machar, who died some years ago; William Knight Erskine,

surgeon, who died in 1843, aged 23 years; James Robertson, Fife Allan, who died at sea, 1858, aged 22 years; Eliza, Jean, Jessie, and Maggie. Jessie died 1849, aged 29 years; Margaret was married to the late Dr. Isaac Gilchrist, Woodside.

The Rev. Mr. James Allan was succeeded by the Rev. James Adam, whose father, Mr. James Adam, was for many years the Editor of the *Aberdeen Herald*. Mr. Adam was settled in Newhills in 1857, and died in 1881.

The present incumbent, the Rev. James Smith, was licensed in 1860, and after being one year assistant Professor of Greek in the University of Aberdeen, became assistant to the Rev. Mr. Adam. Under a special arrangement, sanctioned by the General Assembly of 1861, Mr. Smith was ordained in 1862, and inducted assistant and successor to Mr. Adam in 1874.

Although the following extract from the report of the proceedings of the Synod of Aberdeen has no more connection with the Parish of Newhills than with other parishes within their bounds, yet, on account of the peculiarity of the resolutions embodied, we shall here give it as recorded in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 9th October, 1750:—

Last Thursday the Provincial Synod of Aberdeen, after hearing an excellent sermon, preached by the Rev. Mr. Thomas Shepherd of Bourtie, met in the Synod House, and made choice of the Rev. Mr. William Duff, minister at King-Edward, moderator. After finishing their ordinary business, they unanimously resolved, every member within their bounds, to purchase farthings to the value of 20s. from William Forbes, coppersmith, against the 1st of next November.

The following also appears as an advertisement in the same *Journal* of 6th November, 1750:—

"Whereas the V.R. The Synod of Aberdeen did in April last make an agreement with William Forbes, coppersmith in Aberdeen, for farthings to the amount of 20 shillings sterling for each Kirk-Session within their bounds, appointed several Sessions to purchase said quantity, and to give in what bad coin they had in hand, at 7d. half-penny per pound, as part of the price; and that such as did not advance the said 20s. before 20th June last, should pay for exchange

at the rate of 5 per cent.; and whereas said farthings are now ready to be delivered out, these are, therefore, desiring such of the Kirk-Sessions as have already sent in their money or bad coin forthwith to call for their farthings from the said William Forbes, at his shop in the Gallowgate, west side, and send in his receipts.

Mr. Forbes intreats that such of the Sessions as have bad coins to dispose of would send it in before 1st December, because by that time he is obliged to have it all melted at the oversight of one appointed by the Synod for that purpose, and he further gives notice that he cannot promise to serve any in farthings who don't call for them against that time."

The "Coppersmith," in this instance, was evidently of more service to the Church than the Alexander of the same craft unfavourably noticed by the Apostle Paul.

Besides the Parish Church of Newhills, to which we have already referred, there is a Free Church at Buxburn, built about the close of 1843. The Rev. John E. Craven was then appointed pastor of the congregation, and continued to labour there until the year 1879, when he retired, and the Rev. James A. Russell was appointed his successor. Mr. Russell has recently been translated to Causewayend Free Church.

The Free Church at Kingswells was built in the year 1859, and was opened on the 14th March of that year. The congregation has been under the pastoral care successively of the Rev. Archibald Anderson, the Rev. William Keith, and the Rev. Alexander Clark, the present incumbent.

About seven years ago a neat little Episcopal Chapel was built at Buxburn. The congregation is under the care of the Rev. James Wiseman.

Another handsome place of worship was about the same time built at Bankhead, in connection with the Established Church, and is under the superintendence of the Rev. John Allan.

Craibstone, &c.

IN a catalogue of lost charters of Robert I. is "Carta to John Crab of the Lands of Prescoly, Granden, Auchmollen, and Auchterrony."

"King David II. granted a charter to Ingraham Cullane of the Lands of Ochtereney Auchmyln Prostoli, and Graindun, and all the lands which were John Crabbe's. The same monarch confirmed to Alexander de Keth the Lands of Grandowne, Auchmolyn, Prosly, Crabiston, and Balmady."

In the year 1357, when a Parliament was summoned to meet at Edinburgh to concert measures for the ransom of King David, Aberdeen sent three Commissioners—Laurence de Garvock, William de Leth, and John Crab.

In a footnote to "Kennedy's Annals," it is said that "John Crab appears to have been an eminent character of the time. He was a burgess of Aberdeen and possessed of considerable property in the town and county, part of which he bestowed on the Carmelite Friars in the year 1382," and we think it most likely that this was the same John Crab who was at that time laird of Craibstone.

"In the year 1413, William Crab, the son of John Crab, bequeathed many lands and annual rents to the prior and convent of the Carmelites of Aberdeen. Among them was an annual rent to be levied from his land 'lying in the Green, on the south part of the King's Highway leading from the burgh of Aberdeen towards the mills of the Justiciar, between the croft which is called the Stok Rude on the west part, and the torrent which is called the Denburn on the east part.'"—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, p. 253.

On the first day of June, 1504, Margaret Ogilvy, widow of James Earl of Buchan was found entitled to her "terce" out of the lands of Grandoune, Persly, Crabistoun, &c.—*Antiquities of Aberdeenshire*, vol. III., p. 167.

The next proprietor on record is James Cheyne, who in 1536 sold Craibstone "to an honourabill man James Gordoun," as shown by the following :—

"James Gordoun of Abernedly his airis and assignais. Forsamekle as the said James Gordoun . . . hes sellyt . . . to me my airis and assignais . . . the landis of Crabstoun with the pertinence . . . . lyand in the baronrye of Grandoun, within the Shirefdome of Abirden to be haldin of oure Sourane Lord the Kinge . . . Nochtwithstandinge quhat tyme . . . it sall happin the said James Gordoun his airis or assignais to . . . . pay to me my ayris or assignais the soome of sewyntene scoire of merkis in gold of angell nobillis crovnis of weicht unycornis and Leitht crovnis . . . witht ane sufficient lettre of tak . . . of the said landis . . . for al the . . . termes of fyfteyne zeiris . . . following the rademynge . . . of the said landis for tene merkis of pennye maill . . . monye of Scotlande and als ane sufficient lettre of balyerye of the said landis . . . . for . . . the said fyfteyne zeiris . . . thane . . . I my airis and assignais . . . sall . . . ranunce . . . the said landis and tovne . . . to the said James Gordoun his airis and assignais . . . In witnes of the quhilk to this my rauersioun subscryuit with my hand at the pene, I have apensyt my propir scill at Abirden the fyft day of August in the yeire of God a thowsand fywe hundyre thrytty and sax yeiris afoire thir witnes Wilzeam Mortimare of Cragevare, Wilzeam Grant, Sir Wilzeam Forbes, Chapillane, Robert Barboure burgess of Abirden, Wilzeam Cristesone and Maister Jhone Nicholsone, notar publice, with uthir diuerss. James Cheyne witht my hand at the pene led be maistir Jhon Nicholsone notar publice."

In the year 1558 we find in an old cess book the name of John Cheyne entered as proprietor of Craibstone.

The estate again reverted to the Gordon family. The Town Council, at their riding of the Marches on 15th June, 1615, as will be seen from the following extract, found cause of complaint on account of encroachments on public property by John Gordoun, then proprietor of Craibstone.

"The Town Councill at their yearlie ryding of the common landis of the Friedom of the said Burgh. Finding that Johne Gordoun of Crabstoune, and his tennentis thereof had tellit rewin out, and destroyit ane great pairt of the said Chopman rod, and had carit and spurrit out be southe the samen, and the said toune of Aberdenes propertie this yeir and diveris yeiris bygane, to quhilk novatioun the said baillie maid interruptioun, and thairon tuik instrumentis ; and thairfra hauldand and keipand the said Chopman rod, quhill it come to a great marche stane merkit with the letter P for propertie as the said toune of Aberdenes proper marche ; discending thairfra, east or thereby, keipand the said Chopman rod quhill it come to the fuird of the goiff burne and croceand the said burne, and keipand the said auld March rod, stane be stane as thay are merkit with the said signe of the sauser throch the croft of Wagley till it come to ane great sauser stane merkit with twa sausers on the bank of Buckisburne, on the westsyd of the said burne above the auld dam and fund of the same ; finding that the said Johne Gordoun and his tennentis had tellit and spurrit out ane great quantitie of land this yeir and diveris yeirs bygane and sawin cornes thairvpoun, outwith the said marche stanes, and auld Chopman rod foirsaid on the said towne of Aberdeines propertie ; and thoirfra croceand the said burne and keipand the said gett eastward the auld dyckes of Auchmull till it come to ane march stane byand on the northsyd of the said gett and thairfra keipand and hauldin the hie gett to that place of the Cruive burne quhair thair lyes ane sauser stane on the eastsyd of the same, within ane quarter of buttis or thairby ; and thairfra hauldin doun the said Cruiff burne quhill it enter the watter of Done till it come to the auld found of the dirra dyck."

Sometime after the above date, Craibstone was purchased by James Sandilands, who came to Aberdeen about the year 1606. He has already been described under the chapter on Cotton. We have there mentioned that James Sandilands of Craibstone, and Thomas, his son, were clerks of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and we shall here relate some of the proceedings of the famous General Assembly held in Glasgow in November, 1638 :—

On the day after Alexander Henderson, the great Reformer of that period, had been chosen Moderator, "the Assembly urged that a clerk should first be chossene, they alledging that since Mr. James Sandilands was knowne to be aiged and had excused himselfe by sicknesse, therfor it was necessaire to nominate a new clerke. Mr. Thomas Sandilands had a deputatione from his father Mr. James, but that would not suffice ; therfor having woroughte him to a dimissione (though he came hither in hopes to have gottne his father's place), they fall to the nominatione of a new clerke, whom after a whyles wrangling they did agree upon. The man was Mr. Archibalde Jonstone, advocate, (who had been clerke to ther Tables at Edinburgh, and had been the reader of some of ther protestationes at the Merkatt Crosse of Edinburgh), knowne afterwards as Sir Archibalde Jonstone, clerk register, and Lord Warristoune.

"Mr. Thomas Sandilands, clerke, had delyvered and presented to the Assembly, two manuscript volums of the registers of the Assemblyes containing the Actes of the Generall Assemblyes of the Church of Scottlande since the year 1590. The Moderator enqwyred if ther wer any present who knew what was become of the bookes of the registers of the former Generall Assemblyes, since the yeare 1560, in which the state of the Churche of Scottlande might be best discovered, as it had stoode before corruptions entred into its governement. Mr. Thomas Sandilands answered, in name of his father, that his father protested solemnly that he had never seene mor of the volumms of the register then he had sent thither. The truth was that the

old authenticke registers of the Assemblyes of the Churche of Scottlande wer at that tyme in the custodye of Archbishop Spottswoode, who carryed them into England a little before this tyme; nor could they ever be recovered or seen, nor can it be told (for ought I can learne) what became of them or wher they are unto this very daye.

"But it seemes some imperfeit mutilate transcriptes had been tackne or kept by the clerkes, or other private persones; for whilst the Assemblye seemed to be at a losse, and to lament the want of thes famouse monumentes, Mr. Archibalde Jonstone, the new chosne clerke, to the great joye of all the Assembly, presentes the other registers that wer amissing. They were five manuscript bookes, and contained the Actes of the Generall Assemblyes from 1560 to 1590. How soon thes bookes were exhibited ther was a motione made for to appoynte a number of delegates for to puruse thes bookes, and to give ther judgementes and ther reasones whither they thought them to be authenticke registers or not."—Gordon's *Scots Affairs*, page 146.

This committee, which was appointed on Friday, 23rd November (1638), reported on Tuesday, the 27th, that the registers were authentic, giving nineteen reasons for coming to that conclusion. The day following, the Assembly approved of the report, and gave their sanction to the books as authentic registers of the Church, the King's Commissioner, the Marquis of Hamilton, protesting against the acknowledging of these books, which had not been delivered by Thomas Sandilands, the clerk's son. After the restoration of Charles II., Sandilands obtained indemnification for his deprivation of the office of clerk of the Assembly; and Sir Archibald Johnstone, Lord Warriston, who succeeded him, had fled to the Continent for safety, but was basely given up by the French monarch to an emissary of Charles, brought to Edinburgh, tried, and condemned to death, and in 1663 was hanged at the Market Cross of Edinburgh,

nearly opposite the "mouth" of that close which still bears his name, where two years previous to this the Marquis of Argyll and James Guthrie, a much-beloved minister, were executed.

A very interesting account of the subsequent history of the Assembly book, to which we have referred, will be found in the Appendix to vol. II. of the "History of the Church of Scotland," by Principal Lee, who was examined by a Committee of the House of Commons, in April 1834, regarding them.

We shall close our reference to this subject with a quotation from John Hill Burton's "History of Scotland," vol VI., page 227 :—

"It was the fate of these books afterwards to pass through a career as remarkable, in the unexpected strangeness of its incidents, as any that has enabled people to discover that Providence has been specially at work to create the result which pleases themselves. In this branch of their career, however, the problem of a special providence would require to be solved from the other side, since the end was not the special preservation, but the special destruction of the books. When the Civil War began, it was thought prudent to have a duplicate made of the records, and place each record in a place of safety. One was preserved in Dumbarton, the other in the fortress of the Bass. This latter was removed to London, with other Scots records, by the Government of the Commonwealth. What became of it is not precisely known, but it is believed to have been lost along with other records, on their way to Scotland, in a vessel wrecked in the year 1660. The Dumbarton copy passed from its official custodier to his representative, as private property. It fell into the hands of Archibald Campbell, a member of the Argyll family, and a clergyman of the nonjuring Episcopal Church of Scotland, in Queen Anne's reign. Mr. Campbell was an eccentric man, and a collector of rare books and manuscripts, and it was in this character that he professed

to take an interest in the records. He tantalised the Church authorities in Scotland with offers to restore them on conditions which were pronounced preposterous. In the end, according to a statement by Principal Lee, 'Mr. Campbell, as he had sometimes threatened to do, took a step which was intended to put the books for ever beyond the reach of the Church of Scotland, by entering into a deed of trust or covenant with the President and Fellows of Sion College, the terms of which do not appear to be accurately known to any member of the Church of Scotland, but the effect of which has undoubtedly been to detain these records from their lawful owners for nearly a century past.' This was written in the year 1828. In the winter of 1834 Principal Lee was examined by a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Patronage in Scotland. He desired to refer to these records, and the all-potent order of the Committee brought them to St Stephen's. They were in charge of an officer of the College, who expected to take them back when they were no longer needed for the time; but he was told that 'the Committee wished the books to lie upon the table for their inspection, and that the Committee would send for him when they wished them to be returned.' But, before he was sent for, the Houses of Parliament were burned, and the records in them.—(See the Prefaces to 'The Book of the Universal Kirk.') This title was given to a book in which a worthy attempt was made to supply the substance of the lost records from other incidental sources."

James Sandilands was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas in the Lands of Craibstone. Like his father, he also was an advocate before the Court of Session, and a Commissary of the Diocese of Aberdeen. He had a son James who succeeded him in the Lands of Craibstone, who was succeeded by his son John, of Craibstone and Sclattie, who had a son James, the last of the Sandilands of Craibstone and Sclattie, and by him the lands were sold in 1730 to

John Farquharson of Invercauld, who was succeeded by his son James Farquharson.*

The following advertisement of the sale of Craibstone, &c., in 1754, is interesting as showing some peculiarities in the form of rent in those times :—

"The Lands of Craibstone, with the manor place, and Miln of Craibstone, the Lands of Sclattie and Miln of Sclatie, with the Salmon Fishings thereto belonging, on the River Don, and the Lands of Tullich and Fairny Wreaths, all lying within the Parish of Newhills.

"The yearly rent of these lands and Salmon Fishings is £1317 10s. 4d. Scots money,† 37 Bolls 2 Firlots 3¼ Pecks of Meal, 18 Capons, and 234 Hens, besides Services.

"The Lands of Sclattie hold feu of the Crown, and the other Lands feu of a subject.

"These Lands lie near the Town of Aberdeen (the Manor-house of Craibstone within 3 miles of the Town), and are well accommodated with moss and grass of a large extent and very improveable."

In the year 1756 James Farquharson sold the Lands for £3900 to Alexander Aberdein, of Cairnbulg, who was succeeded by his son, Alexander Aberdein, who was Provost of Aberdeen from 1742 to 1744.

On the 29th July, 1772, the Lands of Craibstone were offered for sale, and said to be of yearly free rent, £250 17s. 9d., 7 Bolls 3 Firlots and two-thirds of a Peck of Meal and 162 Hens, besides a good many Services, which the tenants are obliged to perform to the proprietor or possessor of the Mains of Craibstone.

On the 16th September, the same year, Craibstone was again in the market, and in case of no offerers for the

* There are, level with the ground, two large slabs in the open enclosure at the east end of Oldmachar Cathedral recording the death of several of the Sandilands family; these stones, however, we are sorry to say, are very much defaced and broken.

† One pound Scots is equal to twenty pence English money.

whole of said Lands, they were to be divided into three several lots, viz. :—

"Lot I.—To consist of the Town and Lands of Craibstone, comprehending the Mill of Craibstone, the Croft thereof, and Parkhead, Greentrees, Whitekilns, and Essie Hillock.

"Lot II.—To contain the Town and Lands of Sclattie, and Crofts thereto belonging, with the Mill of Sclattie. The Town and Lands of Miln-hill and Crofts thereof, called Bankhead. Bilboe and Greenburn, with the Salmon Fishings belonging to said Lands.

"Lot III.—To contain the Town and Lands of Tulloch, with the pendicles thereof, called Greenwalltree and Blackhill."

Alexander Aberdein sold Lot II., the Town and Lands of Sclattie, &c., on the 15th December, 1772, to Dr. John Chalmers, Principal of King's College, Aberdeen ; and on the 8th July, 1773, Mr. Aberdein sold the Lands of Craibstone to Dr. William Thom, advocate in Aberdeen, for a "certain sum." Dr. Thom was admitted into the Society of Advocates in 1751. He died on the 9th April, 1795, aged 66. In the year 1813, his wife, Maria Chalmers or Thom, sold Craibstone to her nephew, Dr. Alexander Dauney, under the burden of her own life rent, he paying £10,000 on her death to her trustees.

Dr. Alexander Dauney was son of the Rev. Francis Dauney, minister of Banchory-Ternan, and was well known as Sheriff "Downie." He was uncle to Archibald Simpson, architect in Aberdeen, and took a very active part in the management of various institutions in Aberdeen. He was admitted into the Society of Advocates in 1776, and in February, 1806, succeeded Mr. David Morice as Sheriff-Substitute.

Craibstone was advertised for sale on 29th August, 1821. These lands were said to consist of 583 Scotch acres, of which 257 were arable, 30 acres were water meadow

and valuable pasture, 245 acres planted, and the remainder moss. The greater part of the land was in a high state of cultivation, substantially enclosed and every field well supplied with water. There were on the premises a commodious mansion house, and gardens, with an extensive steading of farm offices, and an excellent corn mill, commanding an abundant supply of water, having a drying kiln attached.

Plantation clumps and hedgerows embellished and afforded good shelter to the ground.

The lands were again offered for sale in 1822. Mrs. Thom, Dr. Thom's widow, died on 11th November, 1823, aged 92 years ; and on the 22nd March, 1824, Mrs. Thom's trustees discharged the debt, already referred to, of £10,000 to Dr. Alexander Scott, who became proprietor. He was married to Margaret Chalmers, only daughter and heir of Dr. John Chalmers, Principal of King's College. Dr. Scott was the son of Alexander Scott, manufacturer, Huntly, and made his money in India as a medical practitioner. He founded in the University of Aberdeen two theological bursaries of £20 and £16 10s. respectively, and also left the Lands of Craibstone, &c., for the erection and endowment of an Hospital at Huntly, as is thus recorded upon a slab of Peterhead granite, built into the entrance porch of the building :—

"A Home for the Aged, founded and endowed by Alexander Scott, a native of the Parish of Huntly, who died at Craibstone, 10th June, 1833, and whose body rests in the Churchyard of Dunbennan, in hopes of a blessed resurrection."

The centre and east wing of the Hospital were completed in 1855, and the Institution was opened on the 1st of August in that year. The west wing was added in 1861. On the 28th of September, 1865, the centre and east wing were entirely destroyed by fire, but were restored in 1869, when some additions were made to the buildings.

The rental of Craibstone is from £800 to £1000 a-year.

The late Provost William Leslie, Aberdeen, in his earlier years, contracted for and built the present Mansion House of Craibstone.

In the private grounds of Craibstone there are some of the finest specimens of ash, plane, Scotch elm, beech, and birch trees that are to be found in the country, and also some fine horse chesnuts, silver firs, and a fair specimen of a walnut tree, and an evergreen oak. The lower outlying plantations are composed of a fine mixture of Scots and spruce firs, larch, and a variety of hardwood trees.

THE SANDILANDS FAMILY.

"Justi ut Sidera Fulgent"

(The righteous shine as the stars).

The Sandilands family having been so long connected with the Lands of Craibstone and Cotton, it may be desirable to give a brief account of their history from an early date to 1773, chiefly taken from MSS. in the possession of the family of Byres of Tonley.

James Sandilands of Middlerigg and Bold, in Clydesdale, was married to Rachel, a daughter of John Dickson of Ormieston, in Tweedale, by Mary Stewart, his spouse, daughter of the Laird of Traquair, ancestor to the present Earl of that title.

The said James Sandilands was son and heir to James Sandilands of Newtonrigg and Margaret Sandilands, his spouse, daughter of the Baron of Calder, ancestor to Lord Torphichen.

These gentlemen and their predecessors had been possessed of the lands of Bold and Middlerigg since the reign of Malcolm the Fourth [who succeeded to the Crown in 1153], from whom the founder of the family got both these estates for faithful services to King and country, as a charter bears; and the aforesaid James Sandilands was the 18th laird of the surname and family. The estates of Bold and Middlerigg were sold to Sir John Stewart, afterwards Earl of Traquair, 15th June, 1624. The Stewarts were descended from the ancient Barons of Sandilands of Wiston, in the Upper Ward of Clydesdale, of whom Lord Torphichen is the lineal heir and representative.

The aforesaid James Sandilands of Middlerigg had by his wife, Rachel Dickson, twenty-eight children.

Patrick Sandilands, his second son, was married to —— Sandilands, daughter to Lord Torphichen, by whom he had several children.

James Sandilands (first of Craibstone), advocate, his eldest son, was married to Catherine Paterson, daughter of Paterson of Granton in the Merse, in 1606, and some years afterwards was made Commissary of Aberdeenshire, and bought the Lands of Craibstone, and was a great loyalist during the troubles in the time of Charles I. After the execution of that unhappy Prince he was turned out of his office by the Covenanters, but upon the restoration of Charles II. he was reponed, 13th October, 1660.

The said James Sandilands of Craibstone had four sons and two daughters, who were all severally married as follows :—

Thomas Sandilands (second of Craibstone), his eldest son, was married to Margaret Cumine, daughter to the Laird of Culter.

James Sandilands of Cotton, his second son, was married to Marjory Burnett, daughter of Baillie Alexander Burnett of Countesswells, second son of Sir —— Burnett of Leys. He was first Regent and afterwards Civilist of King's College, and Town Clerk of Aberdeen.

John Sandilands, his third son, Commissary Clerk of Aberdeen, was married to Christian Lindsay, daughter of —— Lindsay, merchant, Aberdeen.

Patrick Sandilands, Sub-Principal of King's College, his fourth and youngest son, was married to Mary Gordon, daughter of Gordon of Abergeldie.

Jean Sandilands, eldest daughter of the foresaid James Sandilands of Craibstone, was first married to Dr. Gordon, Professor of Medicine in King's College, Aberdeen, by whom she had a son and daughter. The son, James Gordon, was parson of Banchory.

After the death of her first husband the said Jean Sandilands was married to John Gordon of Fechill, second son of the famous Robert Gordon of Straloch.

Elizabeth Sandilands, his second daughter, was married to Stewart of Blairton, Belhelvie, and had several children.

Mr. Thomas Sandilands of Craibstone had one son by his wife, Margaret Cumming, who succeeded him, namely :—

James Sandilands (third of Craibstone), who was married to Margaret Lawdor of Gownsgreen, in the Lothians, by whom he had only one son, who died young. After the death of Margaret Lawdor he married Elizabeth Donaldson of Hillton, now Turnerhall, near Ellon, by whom he had two sons and three daughters, viz. :—

John Sand lands, who succeeded him, and Alexander, whose only child is presently (1773) Lady Torphichen.

John Sandilands (fourth of Craibstone and Sclattie), was married to Jean Gordon, daughter of Sir James Gordon of Lessmoirs, by whom

he had one son, James Sandilands, who sold the Lands of Craibstone and Sclattie to John Farquharson of Invercauld, and died a merchant at London, without issue. After the death of Jean Gordon, the said John Sandilands married Isabella Bailey, daughter of —— Bailey, in Inverness-shire, by whom he had a son, Robert Sandilands, and one daughter Elizabeth, not married.

Robert Sandilands, second son of the foresaid John Sandilands of Craibstone, was first married to Clementina Burnett, daughter of Thomas Burnett of Kirkhill, by whom he had one daughter, Margaret. He married for his second wife—Kinnaird, daughter of Kinnaird of Wester Draikies, near Inverness. By her he acquired the Estate of Wester Draikies.

Jean Sandilands, eldest daughter of James (third of Craibstone), married Sir William Johnston of Caskieben, by whom she had one son, the present (1770) Sir William Johnston, and three daughters. 2nd. Ann Sandilands, married to James Gordon of Achline, who had a son and daughter. 3rd. Elizabeth Sandilands, married to Mr. Thomas Mosman [of Middlefield], advocate in Aberdeen [no issue, but by a subsequent marriage Thomas Mosman had one daughter, Isabella].

[The first mentioned Sir Wm. Johnston died on 18th March, 1750, "in advanced age."]

James Sandilands of Cotton, second son of the first James Sandilands of Craibstone, had three sons and two daughters :—

His son, Patrick Sandilands of Cotton, was first married to Margaret Ord, daughter of William Ord of Carnbee, in Fifeshire, by whom he had three sons and four daughters, namely :—

Patrick Sandilands, his eldest son, who was Sheriff of Aberdeen, and married to Barbara Cummine, daughter of Wm. Cummine of Pittulie, but died before his father. No issue.

William Sandilands, his second son, was bred to the sea, and served in the Royal Navy. Also died without issue.

George Sandilands of Cotton, the youngest son, went abroad and settled as a wine factor at Bordeaux, and was married to Susanna Palmour, an English merchant's daughter (1771). He sold the Lands of Cotton to the late John Middleton of Seaton, and left one son and two daughters. His second daughter, Margaret, married (1770), her cousin-german, Mr. William Paul, merchant in Dublin.

Jacob Sandilands, only son of the foresaid George Sandilands of Cotton, married Elizabeth Ainslie, daughter of George Ainslie, of Bordeaux, merchant, and had children. He sold the Lands of Old Cruives to Peter Barron. N.B.—Both Cotton and Old Cruives [Woodside] were said to have been sold under half their value.

Isabella Sandilands, eldest daughter of Patrick Sandilands of

Cotton, was married to William Black, advocate in Edinburgh, by whom he had several sons and daughters.

Jean Sandilands, his second daughter, was married [4th November, 1704] to Robert Byres, of Dublin, merchant, of which marriage there were two sons and three daughters, who all died young except Patrick Byres, who purchased the Lands of Tonley, and was married [14th June, 1733] to Janet Moir, daughter of James Moir, third of the Moirs of Stoneywood [came to Tonley 8th October, same year] and had three sons and three daughters.

Rachael Sandilands, Patrick Sandiland's third daughter, was married to Charles Dalgarno, merchant in Aberdeen.

After the death of Margaret Ord, his first wife, Patrick Sandilands of Cotton married Magdalene Boyes, widow of Alexander Davidson of Newton, by whom he had only one daughter, namely :—

Margaret Sandilands, who was married to Mr. Thomas Paul, merchant in Aberdeen, by whom she had two sons and two daughters. [She died 7th August, 1778, aged 90]. James Paul, the eldest son, was a merchant in London. [He died 13th January, 1809, aged 84.]

The second son, Andrew Paul, married his cousin-german Susanna Sandilands. She died 7th June, 1798, aged 71.

John Sandilands of Countesswells, Provost of Aberdeen [1690], second son of the foresaid James Sandilands of Cotton, was first married to —— Arbuthnot, daughter of —— Arbuthnot, widow of —— Burnett, Tutor of Leys, brother to Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys. By her the Provost had a son, James Sandilands, a youth of very great promise, who was bred a merchant, but unhappily perished at sea (1713-14) along with his cousin, Roderick Moir, second son of James Moir, third of the Moirs of Stoneywood.

Provost Sandilands was again married to Ann Udny, daughter of John Udny of Newhill, by whom he had two sons and one daughter.

John Sandilands of Countesswells, eldest son of the Provost, was married to Jean Forbes, daughter of Thomas Forbes of Waterton.

Patrick Sandilands of Countesswells, second son of the Provost (1770), was a merchant in Aberdeen, and then unmarried.

Robert Sandilands, third son of James Sandilands of Cotton, entered the Church, was married in England, and died Rector of Spine, in the County of Berkshire. No issue.

Jean Sandilands, eldest daughter of James Sandilands of Cotton (born 1636; and died 5th August, 1687), was married to John Moir, first of Stoneywood, by whom she had four sons, namely :—

James Moir, first of Stoneywood, her eldest son. John Moir, her second son, who was Civilist of the King's College, and Town Clerk of Aberdeen, but died young. Her third son, Alexander Moir, was Professor of Greek in Marischal College, Aberdeen. William

Moir, her fourth son, merchant in Aberdeen, purchased the Estate of Invernettie

The foresaid Jean Sandilands, after the death of the foresaid John Moir of Stoneywood, was married to William Cummine of Auchry, by whom she had several children, but they all died young except Anna Cummine, who was married to Dr. James Gordon, and left by him an only daughter, who was married to Mr. John Gordon, minister of St. Paul's Chapel, Aberdeen, and left by him three sons and one daughter.

Rachael Sandilands, second daughter of the foresaid James Sandilands of Cotton, was married to John Gordon, younger, of Fechill, by whom she had several children. Elizabeth, her second daughter, was married to James Bremner, merchant, Aberdeen. The only child of hers by whom there was issue was her eldest son, William Bremner, who was married to Mary Buchan, daughter of ——— of Auchmacoy, and had issue three sons, namely :—Thomas, James, Alexander, and one daughter Betty.

Catherine Gordon, her third daughter, was married to Baillie John Burnett, merchant in Aberdeen (commonly called "Bonnie John") by whom she left one son, James Burnett, merchant in Aberdeen, who was married to Isabella Black, daughter of John Black of Bordeaux, and had by her a numerous family.

We shall not farther continue the record, except by referring to James Andrew Paul Sandilands, Aberdeen, who was the great-grandson of Patrick Sandilands of Cotton, thus :—

Margaret Sandilands, youngest daughter of Patrick Sandilands of Cotton, was married to Thomas Paul, whose eldest son, James Paul, was father of James Andrew Paul Sandilands, who died in Belmont Street, Aberdeen, 14th February, 1846, aged 62. He was a well-known figure in the streets of Aberdeen, with his half-dozen little dogs trotting about his feet—the envy of dog fanciers. Mr. Sandilands was tall and stooping, and had an obstinate stutter in his speech. This impediment in his speech did not in any degree hinder his efforts at entertaining his friends with a good song as occasion required. He was never married, and with him is closed the long record of the Sandilands family about Aberdeen. Basil Fisher, who died at Seaton House, 29th December, 1866, is buried in the same grave with James Andrew Paul Sandilands, and is referred to on the gravestone as being "his near relative."

Stoneywood.

"Observe below [Dyce] where with becoming pride,
Fair *Stoney-Wood* stands by the river side;
Whose owner still maintained our ancient laws,
And stood like Cato in his country's cause.
Would every Scot act such a part as he,
How happy still might Caledonia be!"

From "Don," by Forbes of Brux. Published in 1655, and reprinted, with additions, in 1742.

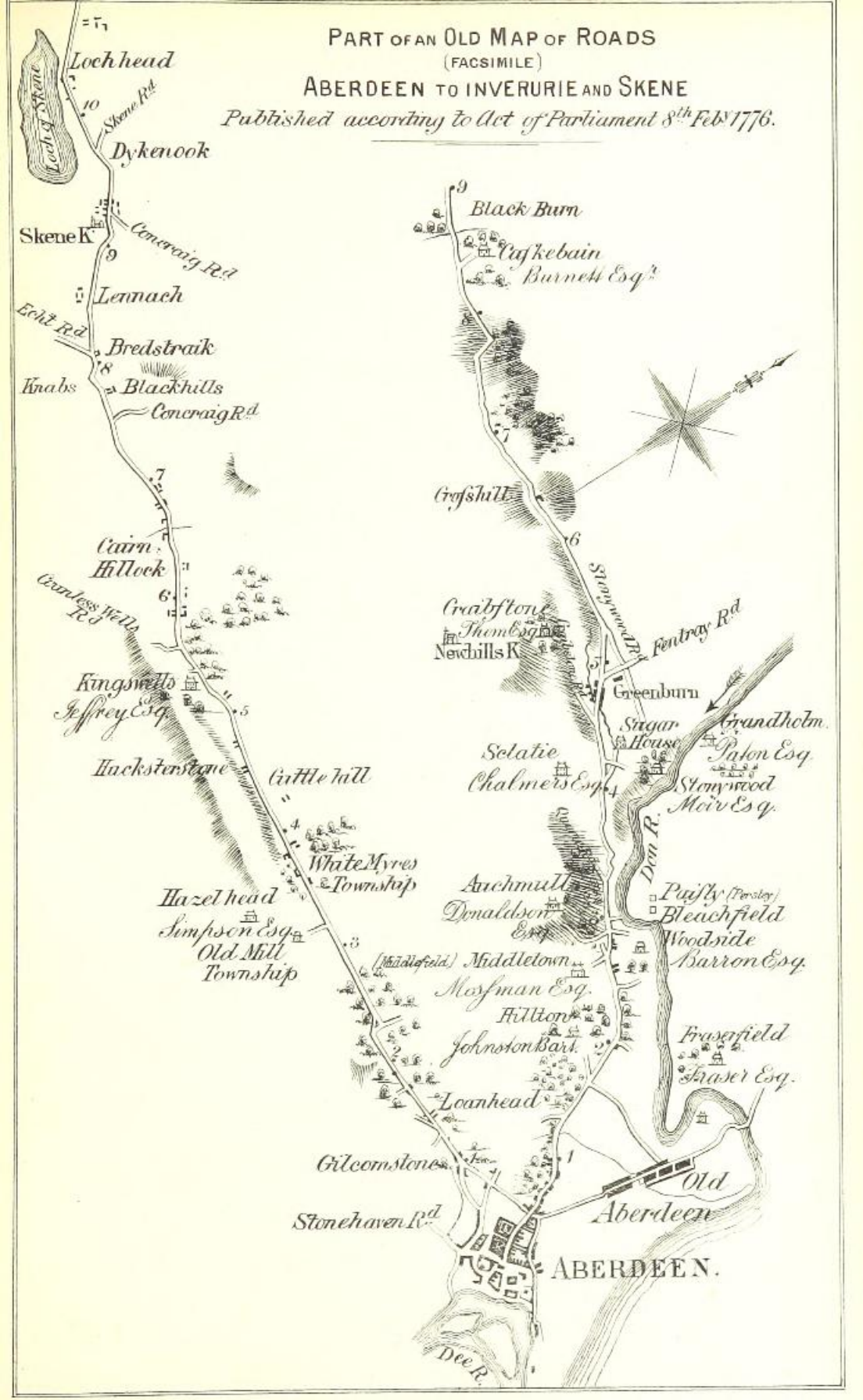
THE Estate of Stoneywood, formerly Craigharr, about four miles north from Aberdeen, at one time consisted of the properties of Stoneywood, Waterton, Clinterty, and Greenburn united in one barony. The author of "A View of the Diocese of Aberdeen," gives it as his opinion that "being a stoney place, and having a firr grove hard by, quhere the Green-bourn falls into Don," comes the name Stoneywood.

The annals of the barony of Stoneywood are interesting, and embrace matters of great importance. It is not without some hesitation that we have undertaken to present to the reader, in a limited space, the results of our efforts in gathering together, from sources both private and public, the records of the past in connection with Stoneywood, perhaps the most important part of the Parish of Newhills.

Before giving a history of the industries which have at various times been carried on at Stoneywood, it may be proper to give some account of the proprietors who have successively held the estate.

In 1373 a certain portion of the lands of Waterton were granted to Donald Bannerman, the King's physician.

As early as the year 1454 Stoneywood became the property of the Fraser family, afterwards alluded to, as also


PART OF AN OLD MAP OF ROADS
(FACSIMILE)
ABERDEEN TO INVERURIE AND SKENE
Published according to Act of Parliament 8th Feby 1776.
Loch of Skene
Lochhead
Skene Rd
Dykenook
Skene K
Concraig Rd
Lennach
Echt Rd
Bredstraik
Knabs
Blackhills
Concraig Rd
Cairn Hillock
Countess Wells Rd
Kingswells
Jeffrey Esq
Hacksterstone
Guttle hill
White Myres Township
Hazel head
Simpson Esq
Old Mill Township
(Middlefield) Middletown
Mossman Esq
Hillton
Johnston Bart
Loanhead
Gilcomstone
Stonehaven Rd
ABERDEEN.
Dee R.
Black Burn
Caskebain
Burnett Esqr
Crosshill
Stonywood Rd
Craibstone
Thom Esq
Newhills K
Fentray Rd
Greenburn
Sugar House
Grandholm
Paton Esq
Sclatie
Chalmers Esq
Stonywood
Moir Esq
Don R.
Auchmull
Donaldson Esq
Paisly (Persley)
Bleachfield
Woodside
Barron Esq
Fraserfield
Fraser Esq
Old Aberdeen

the lands of Muckwells. It is said in Riddell's "Remarks upon Scotch Peerage Law," that "It has been supposed that the family of Fraser of Muckwells was a branch of the Philorth family, probably from contiguous property which they held in Aberdeenshire, and that they could not instruct their pedigree farther back than three hundred years." But this is a mistake: Aberdeenshire was not their original residence, and the family were of far greater antiquity. Independently of being the proprietors of the barony of Stoneywood in 1454, it is proved by an authentic charter, 28th October, 1454, that James II. then exchanged the lands of Stoneywood and Muckwells in Aberdeenshire with the representative, for the lands of Corntoun, near Stirling, their previous property.

The following extracts from "The Lord High Treasurer's accounts" refer to Stoneywood :—

"Item [Oct 1497] to Johne the Mannis boy, to pas to the Lard of Stanywood for ane halk (hawk) x v j d.

"Item [Nov 1st, 1497] to ane man of the Lard of Stanywoddis, that brocht ane dog to the King, be the Kingis command i x s."

It would thus seem that the "Lard of Stanywood" had been a sportsman.

It may not be out of place to present here the following amusing extract from "Selections from Presbytery Records" :—

"[STANIVOID.]

[1601.]

"The quhilk day, Walter Ronaldsone, in the Kirkton of Dyce, being citat to this daye, as he that wes dilate to have familiarite of a spirite, comperit, and being examinat, confessit that, upone a 27 yeiris syne, there came to his dur a spirit; and callit upone him Wattie, Wattie, and this wes in the barley seid tyme and thairfra removit, and thaireftir came averie yeir twa tymes sen syne, bot saw na thing bot harde a voce as saidis. In speciall at Michaelmes in 1600

yeirs it came quhair the deponar wes in his bed sleipand and it sat down anent the bed upone a kist, and callit upone him, saying Wattie, Wattie, and then he wakynnit, and saw the forme of it, quhilk wes lyke ane litill bodie, haiffing a sheavin berd, cled in quhyt lening lyke a sark and it sed to the said Walter, thou art onder wraik ; gang to the weachmanis houss in Stanivoid, and thair thou sall find baith silver and gold with weschell, quha, according to the directioun, geid to that place, haiffing witht him spaidis and cumpanie, and culd find no thing and he wes poustaless he culd not do na thing, alwayes thai that wes with him viz. Patrick Gray, John Baith, William Paul, and they [serchit] kist, bot fand na thing. The persuaideris of him to gang thair wer his wyf and bairnes, and beleives thair is gold thair, giff it wes weill socht. Mr. Williame Nelsoun, his minister, reportit that he is a diligent hearer of the worde, and communicat with the Sacrament of the Lord Table ; and Mr. William to try forder of him."

The following extract from Anderson's "Scottish Nation," vol. II., p. 261, will no doubt be interesting :—

"Baron Fraser (now dormant), in the peerage of Scotland, conferred by patent at Holyrood House, 29th June, 1633, on Andrew Fraser of Kilmundy, Stanywood, and Muchells, Aberdeenshire, descended from a branch of the House of Philorth,* to him and his heirs male for ever, bearing the arms of Fraser. He died 10th December, 1636.

"His son, also named Andrew, second Lord Fraser, supported the cause of the Covenant, and when Montrose proceeded to Aberdeen on the 30th March, 1639, with a commission from The Tables (as the boards of representatives, chosen respectively by the nobility, gentry, burghs, and clergy, were called), he was joined by Lord Fraser. On the departure of Montrose's army to the South, the

* The descent of the Frasers of Stoneywood from a branch of the family of Philorth is contradicted in Riddell's "Remarks upon Scottish Peerage Law," as quoted above.

Covenanters of the North appointed a committee meeting to be held at Turriff on Wednesday, 24th April, consisting of the Earls Marischal and Seaforth, Lord Fraser, the Master of Forbes, and some of their kindred and friends. The meeting was afterwards adjourned till the 20th May, which led to the historical incident, styled the "Trot of Turray," the old name of Turriff, which is distinguished as the place where blood was first shed in the civil wars. On the 11th June following, the Royalist army, under the Viscount Aboyne, proceeded to the House of Muchells, belonging to Lord Fraser, but hearing of a rising in the South, Aboyne abandoned his intention of besieging it, and returned to Aberdeen. Lord Fraser was one of the Parliamentary Commissioners appointed 19th July 1644, for suppressing the insurrection of the North, and for proceeding against rebels and malignants. In the following year he was also one of the Committee of Estates, and in 1694 he was a member of the committee for putting the kingdom in a posture of defence."

Stoneywood was sold by Lady Fraser of Muckwells, in 1671, to John Moir of Kermuck, Ellon.

THE FAMILY OF MOIR OF STONEYWOOD.

"*Major opima ferat*"

(Let the worthiest carry off the prize).

William Moir, burgess of Aberdeen, 1560, was served heir to John Moir, his grandfather. His second son, William Moir, M.A., burgess of Aberdeen, married Janet Rae. He was served heir to his father in 1602, and was Treasurer of Aberdeen in 1615.

John Moir, first of Stoneywood, second son of William Moir, burgess in Aberdeen (born 1610, died 1671), is said, according to Skene's MS. History of the Moirs, to have been first designed of Ferryhill, afterwards of Kermuck, and in 1671, of Stoneywood. In 1668, John Moir and his wife make over to Sir John Forbes of Waterton all the lands of Ardgrain, Kermuck, Broomfield, Kirkhill, and other

property they had bought from the Kennedys for £42,500 Scots. John Moir married Jean Sandilands (born 1636, died 5th August 1687), eldest daughter of James Sandilands, first of Cotton.

James Moir, second of Stoneywood, was baptised at Aberdeen, 1st September, 1659. He sat in Parliament for 15 years, as member for Aberdeenshire, 1689-1702, 1702-1707; and was also one of the Commissioners appointed for settling the Union of the Kingdoms. He married, first, (10th July, 1683) Mary, eldest daughter of the Right Rev. Wm. Scroggie, Bishop of Argyll, by his wife, a daughter of Patrick Scougal, Bishop of Aberdeen, who was son of Sir John Scougal of that Ilk in East Lothian. He married, second, Jean, daughter of Alexander Abernethy, first of Mayen, and relict of William Moir of Scotston. On 28th September, 1715, James Moir of Stoneywood was elected one of the "Jacobin" Town Council, Aberdeen. He died 22nd November, 1739.

James Moir, third of Stoneywood (eldest son of James Moir, by his first wife Mary Scroggie), was one of the keenest of the Stuarts' supporters in the North, and engaged ardently in the Royal cause. He married Jean, daughter of William Erskine of Pittodrie, by his wife Mary Grant, of Ballindalloch, and had issue five sons and two daughters.

James Moir, fourth of Stoneywood, born 1710, married at Ardross in Ross-shire (in September, 1740) his cousin Margaret, daughter of Mackenzie of Ardross, and had fifteen children, who mostly died young. Charles, the eighth son, entered the British army, and was killed in America. After having lost all his sons, he was very anxious to form a nearer connection by the marriage of his daughter Maria, to her cousin James Moir, barrister. He intended to have given a portion to his elder daughter, Jane, wife of George Skene of Rubislaw, and to settle the estate of Stoneywood on James Moir and his daughter Maria, but their marriage, upon the eve of its accomplishment, was defeated by the influence of a Mr. Durno.

In the beginning of November, 1745, Lord Lewis Gordon, who had been appointed by Prince Charles Stuart, Lord-Lieutenant of the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, made his appearance in the town of Aberdeen, accompanied by William Moir of Lonmay and James Moir of Stoneywood, and assumed the direction of public affairs.

The following is from the "Spalding Club Miscellany," vol. I. :—

It is well known how ardently Prince Charles Edward desired an advance on the City of London, and how severely he was affected by the retreat from Derby. The Laird of Stoneywood had advanced the march into England, and he was of opinion that it should have been persevered in, contrary to the opinion held by the majority of the Prince's officers. Mr. Moir stood high in the estimation of the Prince, and to the warm interest which the latter showed in his welfare at a subsequent period he was considerably indebted. Mr. Moir had believed in the popular report of the treachery of Lord George Murray, and on his regiment being broken at Culloden, it is said, in a moment of vexation and anger, that he met this nobleman and upbraided him as a traitor to the cause. After that fatal conflict Mr. Moir reached his house of Stoneywood, which had been some time occupied by a party of English troops. He narrowly escaped detection, and fleeing into the district of Buchan, he was concealed in the house of a crofter of the name of Bartlett, in the Parish of Cruden, a retreat which had been prepared for him by the exertions of a faithful retainer. He found it necessary to remove his quarters to the house of John Clerk, a cobbler, who led a solitary life in a remote part of the country, and was father to the wife of his late host. Here he contrived a concealment behind his bed, to which he retired on the approach of any one to the house. With the view of amusing himself, Mr. Moir made himself acquainted with the humble art professed by his host, in which he soon acquired a skill quite surprising to his teacher. It was the 5th November, 1746, before adequate means of leaving Scotland could be provided by him. On that day his brother, Charles, who had also been engaged in the rebellion, along with Gordon of Glenbucket, Sir Alexander Bannerman, and two other gentlemen of the Prince's army, embarked on board a small sloop on the coast of Buchan, which was bound for Norway. Having arrived in that country, he proceeded from thence to Sweden, and having reached Gottenburg, he proposed to enter into trade. In the meantime he preferred a claim of indemnification on the French Government for having, at his own expense, raised, clothed, and victualled

his regiment, in the Prince's service, until it was ready to join the army. His claim was not disputed, and he received 1500 livres in payment of it, which, however, was a very inadequate remuneration for his outlay. Mr. Moir had assumed the name of Jamieson, which he deemed it advisable to retain, as he was specially excepted from the Act of Indemnity, which passed at this time. After a short residence at Gottenburg, he was joined there by his wife. He now hesitated whether he would prosecute his mercantile intentions or engage in the French service, and he entered into a correspondence on the subject with James Leslie, secretary to the Prince, who in January, 1747, writes to Mr. Moir offering assistance, and this offer determined him to adhere to his mercantile project; but while thus engrossed in arrangements connected with these, he received an order from the King of Sweden to repair to Stockholm. On his arrival there he found that Prince Edward had written to the Swedish Court, strongly recommending him. On this occasion Mr. Moir received from the Swedish King the gift of naturalisation, which, by freeing him from certain taxes exigible from foreigners, materially assisted him in his new pursuits. He was also honoured with a patent of nobility which, along with other family papers, is yet in the possession of his representative. Mr. Moir's health began to give way in 1761, and in the course of the ensuing year, after many negotiations, he was allowed to return to Scotland, and he again took up his abode at Stoneywood in 1762. In his absence his affairs had fallen into considerable disorder; some years after his death the inheritance of his fathers was sold

Along with family papers there has descended to their present possessor, a relic of a nature so interesting that we shall here advert to it. It is said that when Charles I. was on the scaffold the unfortunate monarch placed in the hands of Bishop Juxon, who attended him in his last moments, a Bible, addressing him at the same time, the emphatic injunction, "Remember." Between Bishop Juxon and Patrick Scougal, who was Bishop of Aberdeen from 1644 to 1682, a connection existed, the precise nature of which has not been ascertained. It is certain, however, that Bishop Juxon bequeathed to Bishop Scougal the Bible which he had received in such awfully interesting circumstances from his Sovereign. Dr. William Scroggie, for some time minister at Old Aberdeen, but who was elected to fill the see of Argyll in 1666, married the eldest daughter of the Bishop of Argyll. Through this channel, the Bible originally given to Bishop Juxon descended to the Moirs of Stoneywood. A short time before the property was sold this valuable relic was stolen, along with a gold piece which had been given by the Lady of Fraser of Muchalls to the ancestor of Mr. Moir, who first purchased Stoneywood. It was designed for a talisman for the preservation of the estate, so long as the family should keep possession

of the coin, and it had been preserved for many generations in the Charter Chest. After being thus abstracted, it was never again heard of; the thief, who was one of the female servants at Stoneywood, found the Bible to be a less marketable article, as its history was well known in the country. She accordingly came by night to Stoneywood, and deposited the volume at the foot of a large chesnut tree, which overshaded the entrance of the front court of the house, where it was found next morning. It was not returned altogether in the same state as when it had been abstracted. The depredator had offered the volume for sale to a bookseller in Aberdeen, who, although he declined to purchase it, thought proper to abstract the blank leaf on which the monarch's autograph was thus written, "Charles Stuart, anno dom. 1648." This leaf he pasted upon another old Bible, which it is said he disposed to a noble collector of rarities in the North for a large sum, as a Bible of Charles I.

Referring to this family relic, Dr. John Brown, author of "Rab and his Friends," mentions that it is magnificently bound in light blue velvet, having the royal arms and initials embroidered in silver gilt on the boards. Having been long used as the register of the births, marriages, and deaths of the family, as well as for the daily purposes of domestic devotion, its original lustre has disappeared; but there is no doubt of its authenticity, and of its regular descent to its present possessor. A fine portrait of Bishop Juxon was preserved among the family pictures of Stoneywood, and remains in the possession of Mr. Skene of Rubislaw, the representative of the Moirs of Stoneywood.

The old counterfeited Bible, on which the stolen fly leaf was neatly pasted, bearing the inscription, "Charles Stuart, anno dom. 1648," was purchased from the already referred to bookseller by the Earl of Fife, in whose library it figures as King Charles' Bible, while the original still remains in the possession of the representative of the family to whom it descended by inheritance.

The Bible is a quarto, printed in 1637. There is the crown and Prince of Wales' feathers, showing that it had belonged to Charles II. when Prince. He must have given it to his hapless father, as C. P. is changed into C. R.

Mitchell's "Scotsman's Library," page 24, contains the

following anecdote:—"Moir of Stoneywood, having obtained a pardon and the restoration of his estates after the Rebellion of the '45, returned home Soon after, meeting one of his tenants, he was asked, 'Weel, laird, what sall it be noo? Sall it be Steenywud or Wud Steeny?'"

James Moir died at Stoneywood on the 29th Sept., 1784.

We find an advertisement of the sale of Stoneywood, on the 6th September, 1784, as follows:—

"The Mansion-house of Stoneywood, with the offices, garden, pigeon-house, and that part of the estate called the Lower Barony of Stoneywood, with the salmon fishing on the river Don belonging to said estate. The present gross rents amount to £475 sterling. The Mansion-house, which is modern and sufficient to accommodate any family, stands on a beautiful situation on the banks of the Don, within four miles of Aberdeen. The garden is enclosed with stone walls, and well stocked with fruit trees, and there is a complete set of farm houses, built in a most substantial manner, and covered with slated and tiled roofs. The lands hold of the Crown, and will entitle the purchaser to vote in electing a member for the county of Aberdeen, and the teinds were valued many years ago and exhausted."

The whole household effects of Stoneywood House, with a four-wheeled chaise, were offered for sale on the 18th May, 1785.

Mrs. Moir of Stoneywood died on the 6th December, 1805, at the advanced age of 96 years.

Francis Douglas, in his "Description of the East Coast of Scotland, 1782," says:—

"Opposite to Grandhome, on the south bank of the river, lies Stoneywood, the property of James Moir, Esq., pleasantly situated, and very capable of improvement, though little seems to have been done upon it.

"Several years ago, the gentleman began to lay out and build a village at Greenburn, erected a sugar-house, &c., but his plans did not succeed."

THE GREENBURN MARKET.

The following is an extract from "Acta Parliamentorum Gulielmi, 1701, vol. x., p. 333 :—

> "Act in favour of James Moir of Stoneywood for two yearly fairs at the Greenburn on the Lands of Stoniewood.

"Our Soveraign Lord and Estates of Parliamt Considering that fairs and mercats in convenient places tend very much to the good and to the advantage of the Inhabitants thereof and to his Majesties other Leidges dwelling near thereto and likewayes to increase trade and commerce in the nation And it is fit for these ends to authorize the publict fairs following at Greenburn on the Lands of Stoniewood Pertaining to James Moir of Stoniewood and lying in the Shire of Aberdeen do therefor by thir presents Appoint the publict fairs underwritten to be keept and holden yearly in all time coming at the said Greenburn One upon the second Thursday of June to be called Hagg fair and another upon the last Thursday of July to be called Bathie fair for all kind of Merchandice And have Given and Granted and hereby Give and Grant to the said James Moir and his heirs and successors for ever the right and privilege of keeping and holding the said two yearly fairs and the haill customes profites and casualities of the the same and all other advantages used and wont With full power to exact uplift dispose upon and enjoy the same and to cause proclaim and ride the said fairs and do all other things thereanent as they think fit which any haveing the priviledge of keeping fairs within this Kingdom lawfully do or may do."

The Greenburn market having been for a long time discontinued, the Messrs. Pirie a few years ago kindly enclosed the stance by a substantial wall, and laid it out for the use of the workpeople and tenants there as recreation ground.

James Moir of Stoneywood executed a deed of settlement in favour of his daughter Maria, dated 16th January, 1782.

Maria Moir, with consent, disposed of the Lands of Stoneywood to James Forbes of Seaton, on the 2nd and 5th, and registered in the Sheriff Court books of Aberdeen on 24th November, 1789.

On the death of James Forbes, his daughter Elizabeth succeeded her father in the proprietorship of Stoneywood, along with her husband, Lord James Hay; and on his death, in 1862, James Gordon Hay, his son, succeeded to the estate, and was again succeeded by James Gilbert Hay, his son, a boy three years of age, who survived his father only a few months. The next successor is a younger brother, Malcolm Vivian Hay, who is now (1886) in his 7th year.

In May, 1877, a large portion of the Estate of Stoneywood, and portions of Auchmull and Sclattie, and also the lands of Mugiemoss and Bankhead, were purchased by Messrs. Pirie from James Gordon Hay of Seaton, and the estate thus acquired was formed into a new and separate property, to be afterwards known as the Estate of Waterton.

Paper-Making at Stoneywood.

PAPER is associated with the diffusion of knowledge and the progress of civilisation in many ways. Much of the prosperity of our country is due to the paper trade, and the history of this national industry is interesting. We shall here give only a few facts.

In 1590, the Privy Council granted a company the exclusive right of paper-making in Scotland for nineteen years. In 1675, a paper mill was erected at Dalry Mills, on the Water of Leith. In 1679, the owners reported that they were able to produce "gray and blue paper, much finer than ever was done before in this kingdom." In 1693, Mr. Dupin and his partners obtained liberty from the Privy Council to erect a paper mill in Scotland, and afterwards permission to put the national arms upon their paper. In 1695, Parliament granted them a charter of incorporation, under the name of "The Scots White Paper Manufactory." Rags became so scarce that the paper-makers petitioned the Privy Council to prohibit the custom of using fine rags for wicks to candles. The Council acceded to their request, and prohibited the candle-makers from using "clouts and rags for the wicks of candles." We have already, under the chapter on Gordon's Mills, mentioned that Patrick Sandilands of Cotton, in the year 1696, began a paper mill there. We shall pass over a considerable period, when the trade, which took its rise in a modest way on the Water of Leith, extended into the neighbouring valley of the Esk, where it has had its head-quarters for more than a century. At a somewhat earlier date, however, than that of the Cowans, the Annandales, the Somervilles, the Craigs, &c., whose names have long been identified with the paper trade, John Boyle, bookseller,

and Richard Hyde, dyer, had erected a paper mill at Stoneywood, now become famous for the quality of paper manufactured, and the extent of the business carried on, by the firm of Alexander Pirie & Sons, which firm was, in January, 1882, registered as a limited liability company.

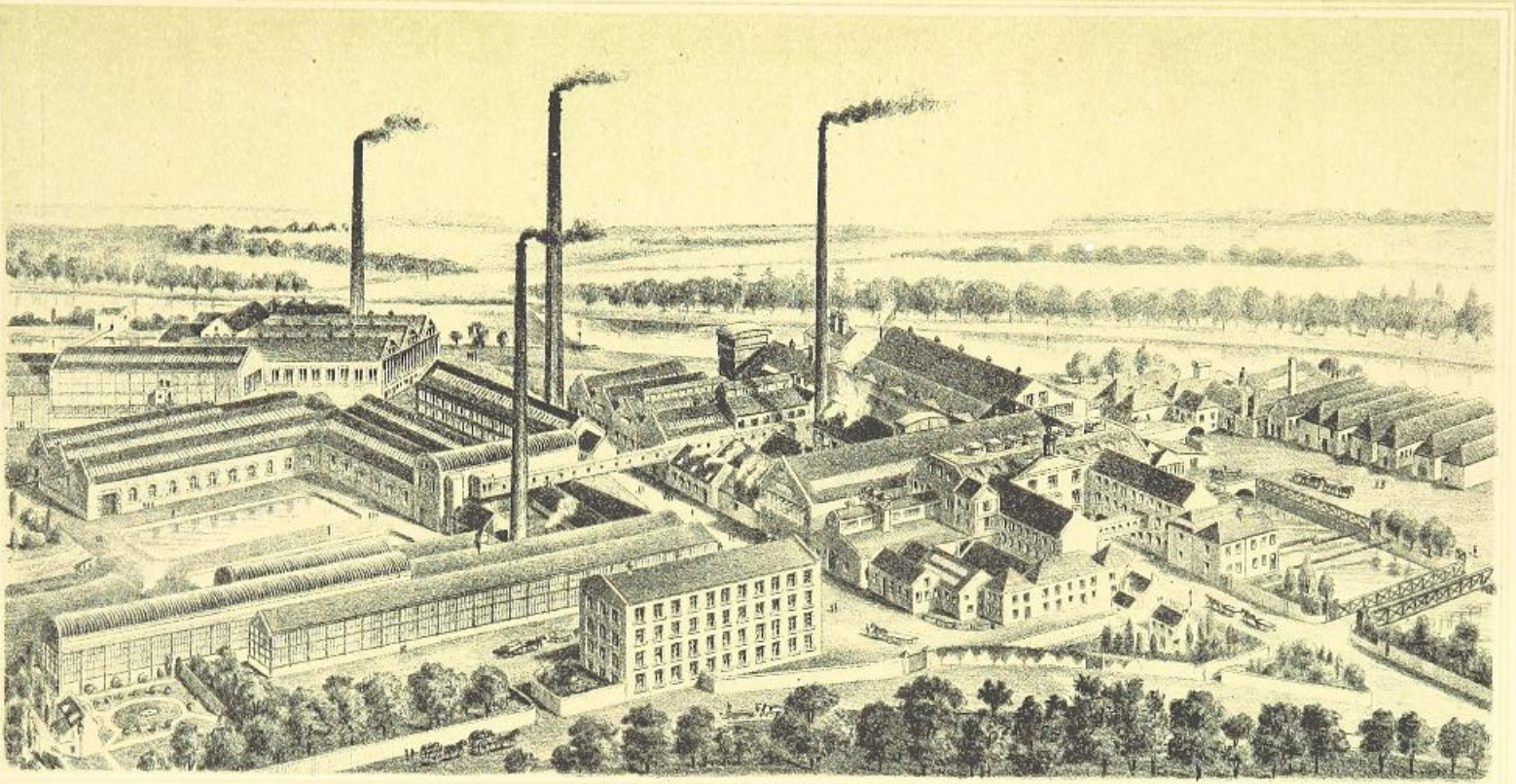
On the 6th September, 1770, John Boyle and Richard Hyde obtained a charter from James Moir of Stoneywood in the following terms :—

It is contracted and finally ended and agreed upon between James Moir of Stoneywood, heritable proprietor of the grounds, and others aftermentioned, on the one part, and John Boyle, bookseller, and Richard Hyde, dyer, both in Aberdeen, on the other part, in manner and to the effect underwritten, that is to say, the said John Boyle and Richard Hyde, having resolved to engage in a partnership for the making and manufacturing of writing and other paper, and to erect proper water wheels and other machinery for that purpose on the ground aftermentioned, the said James Moir hereby sets and in tack and assedation, lets to the said John Boyle and Richard Hyde, All and Haill that piece of ground, called the Island or Inch of Stoneywood, as the same is bounded from the pigeon-house of Stoneywood to the "inver" of Burn of Greenburn to the River Don upon the east, and from "inver" of the said burn, along the west and north by a stone dyke and paling, in a curved line terminating at the River Don, about twelve feet southward from the south gravel of said pigeon-house ; with liberty to them to take off and bring from the river a sufficient quantity of water for working said mill, or any other mill for which they shall have occasion ; as also they oblige themselves furthwith to erect upon the ground already described a proper mill-house, and other houses, necessary for carrying on the said manfacture, of sufficient mason work, sneck-pinned with lime, and covered with a substantial roof, slated or tiled, and to furnish the same with all proper machinery and utensils, &c., &c.

The above lease was for six times 19 years, or 114 years.

The following is from the *Aberdeen Journal*, dated 25th February, 1771 :—

"Whereas John Boyle and Richard Hyde are presently erecting a paper mill, which will be ready in a few months hence, they propose to give the following prices for any quantity of old ropes or rags, viz. :—For every 20 pounds



STONEYWOOD PAPER WORKS.

Messrs A. Pirie & Sons, Ltd

BRITISH
16 JY 86
MUSEUM

of old ropes or unbleached rags, ninepence, and so in proportion for a larger or smaller quantity. For every 20 lbs. of linen, or check rags, eighteenpence, and so in proportion for a larger or smaller quantity. Those who have any quantity of either of the above, will receive ready-money for them on applying to the said John Boyle, Bookseller, in the head of the Broadgate."

As it may be interesting to know something of John Boyle, the following advertisement, of date 16th October, 1769, will show that he was a printer as well as a bookseller:—

"Whereas the Copartnership in the printing trade betwixt Bruce and Boyle hath for sometime past been dissolved, and is now wholly carried on by John Boyle, &c. . . . On the first Thursday of November next will be published number III. of the Family Bible, and number VII. of Willison's Works, which will both be regularly published the first Thursday of every month. It is hoped subscribers will lose no time in giving in their names to John Boyle, Bookseller, in the head of the Broadgate."

About the year 1770, John Boyle began a weekly newspaper, which he published for a year or two. He also had a bookbinding business.

In 1771, Boyle sold his half of the paper mill to Hyde, who was thus in right of the whole, but immediately after Hyde sold one half to Alexander Smith, wigmaker in Aberdeen. In referring to the minute book of the Wigmaker Craft, we find that Alexander Smith was, in October, 1754, admitted a member and free brother of the art and trade of a periwig-maker within the burgh and liberties of Aberdeen.

In 1772, Hyde sold his remaining half to Thomas Spark, merchant, Aberdeen. The property now belonged to Smith and Spark.

In 1773, Spark sold his half to Smith, who thus acquired the whole.

By his deed of settlement, dated in 1794, Smith be-

queathed the lease to his only son, Alexander Smith, whom failing (as he did) to his grandson, Alexander Pirie, son of Patrick Pirie.

Smith advertises in the *Aberdeen Journal* on the 22nd March, 1773, in the following terms :—

"A PAPER WAREHOUSE.

"Alexander Smith, proprietor of the paper mills at Stoneywood, has opened a warehouse in the head of the Broadgate, Aberdeen, where he sells on the *lowest terms* the greatest variety of lapping, or wrapping paper, viz., whited-brown, Kentish cap, elephant royal, pot blue, filtering paper, cartridge of various kinds, dyers pressing papers, or paste boards, &c., &c. He gives the best prices, ready money, for old ropes and rags, or anything of the hemp or lint kind. Commissions from the country carefully obeyed, and to those who may buy a large quantity at one time, a proper allowance will be given for rental."

Sometime after Mr. Smith came to Stoneywood, he was joined in the business by Patrick Pirie, a merchant in Castle Street, Aberdeen, who was the son of William Pirie of Orchardton, and grandson of James Pirie of Iriewells, both in the Parish of Udny. Margaret Smith, daughter of Alexander Smith by his first marriage, became the wife of Patrick Pirie, on the 1st of March, 1778, by whom he had three sons, Alexander, William, and Patrick, and one daughter, Francis Mary, who was married to Duncan Davidson of Inchmarlo. She was born on 29th April, 1786, and died 15th November, 1859. Alexander Pirie, his eldest son, succeeded to the business on the death of his grandfather, Alexander Smith. William and Patrick became wool manufacturers at Gordon's Mills, and also at Buxburn.

The first mentioned Patrick Pirie died in 1787, and his death is thus noticed in the *Journal*, 20th March, 1787 :—

"On the 13th curt., died much regretted, Patrick Pirie, merchant in this place.

"As neighbour, husband, father, friend,
He acted well his part,
Blest with what's dear to all mankind,
A good and honest heart."

Alexander Smith died at Waterton, on the 14th of May, 1796, in the 66th year of his age. He had a son by his second marriage, who lived only a few years.

Mr. Alexander Pirie married Ann Logie, daughter of Francis Logie, proprietor of Middlefield, Woodside. By this marriage he had seven sons and two daughters—Patrick, died 2nd January, 1886, aged 79; Jane Gordon, married to Mr. W. Hogarth; Francis, died 1st August, 1870, aged 61; Margaret, died unmarried; Alexander, died 20th November, 1875, aged 63; William, died many years ago; Duncan was a naval officer, and was accidentally drowned at sea; James, died some years ago; and Gordon Pirie, the present senior partner of the firm.

As the rapid growth of the business required a much larger space of ground for the works than was originally leased by Boyle & Hyde, the area was considerably extended, and the term of expiry prorogued to a more distant date; and, as has already been stated, the Messrs. Pirie some nine years ago purchased the Lands of Mugiemoss and Bankhead and a large portion of Stoneywood.

Mr. Charles Smith, who was bred to the business of paper-making under his uncle, the already-mentioned Alexander Smith, superintended the Works at Waterton for a number of years.

Sometime after the death of his uncle he left the Works and commenced at Stoneywood a small paper work on his own account by the advice and under the patronage of James Forbes, Esq. of Seaton. About 1805 he obtained from Mr. Forbes a renewal of the lease he held of his former premises, together with the Mansion House of Stoneywood, then unroofed and ruinous, with other accommodation necessary for the work. About 1810 he obtained by

purchase a right to the lease of a snuff mill adjoining the paper manufactory. The following quotation from his lease is interesting :—

"The said James Forbes hath set for the purpose of carrying on the art and business of a paper manufacture, and by these presents sets to the said Charles Smith the Mansion House of Stoneywood, the East Wing thereof, with the house on the east gavel of the said Mansion House, formerly used as a Wool Carding and Paper Mill House, with the use of the upright shaft and other machinery and utensils in said house, to be taken on Inventory ; together also with the new mill house adjoining to the Mansion House, measuring 38½ feet in width by 50 feet in length ; and the use and enjoyment of the water wheel in an arch of hewn stone within the said mill house, of 18 feet diameter, with a ring of 7 feet broad and two cast-iron rings, the movement of which is adjusted to eight turns per minute, with the right and liberty of taking water."

About the year 1813 Mr. Smith, with five others, entered into a co-partnery which expired in 1826, and at this date the whole concern was repeatedly advertised for sale, but no offers were received which could be accepted.

Mr. Smith and his partners continued to carry on the business until about 1832, when the paper mill was stopped and the snuff mill sold, possession of which was given at Whitsunday, 1832.

He unfortunately entered upon a long course of litigation with Lord James Hay, the proprietor of the grounds, &c., which lasted until 1843. On the merits of this case we are neither qualified nor inclined to enter. The Rev. Peter Merson, teacher in Elgin Academy, and Robert Duthie, Esq. of Ruthrieston, merchant, Aberdeen, were partners of the firm—Charles Smith & Co. The Messrs. Pirie took over that firm's premises, which are now absorbed in their gigantic business.

DESCRIPTION OF STONEYWOOD WORKS.

The illustration given of Stoneywood Works will help those of our readers who may not have seen them to form some idea of their extent. The three chimneys, of the respective heights of 208, 203, and 140 feet, are the first part of these Works to catch the eye. Most of the power used is derived from 13 large boilers, measuring 30 feet by 6 feet, supplying over 30 steam engines. The furnaces consume about 400 tons of coal per week. There are also three turbine water wheels of 1000 horse-power; and other water wheels, supplied by the river Don, have been added during recent years. About 30,000 cubic feet of gas are required every twenty-four hours during the winter season for lighting up the Works alone, for the production of which complete gas works have been erected. Near the river are two large iron tanks, one of which is kept constantly filled from the river by a "pulsometer" pump, delivering about 600 gallons per minute. One of these tanks supplies the filtered water required for the washing and pulping processes, the rag-boiling waste steam being condensed in the other. In the year 1829, a year or two after Mr. Alexander Pirie had put up his first paper machine, a river flood nearly annihilated the property. Re-building was, however, soon begun near the same place, and the bed of the river was also deepened with the view of preventing sudden occasional overflows. Large substantial granite buildings have been put up one after the other, till now they number some thirty, and cover a space of between 15 and 16 acres. In the year 1848, the number of women employed was about 100, and the number of men and boys from 70 to 80, while now at Stoneywood alone the number of work people is set down as between 1500 and 1600. In the preparation and manipulation of rags at the Woodside Works 400 women are employed. In 1879, the raw material required by the firm reached about 6000 tons per annum. Since that time the firm have added to their other manufactures

that of superfine "printings," and the quantity of raw material has now considerably over-topped that figure.

At the International Exhibition at Paris, in 1855, and again in 1878, gold medals were awarded the firm, these being the highest awards. At Philadelphia, in 1876; at Sydney, in 1879; and at Melbourne, in 1880-81, similar high awards were obtained. At the Berlin Paper Trades' Exhibition, Messrs. Pirie were the only firm representing the paper trade of this country. This is but one of the numerous instances of exceptional enterprise which has distinguished the firm from the commencement. All the new demands and changes of the times are closely watched, and improvements, whether in processes, machinery, or products, do not escape the attention they deserve. By means such as these the proprietors have built up from the smallest beginnings one of the greatest industrial establishments of modern times, most worthily representing, in every respect, the manufacture in which it is engaged.

EXTRACTS

Relative to the Death of Alexander Pirie, Junior.

(From the *Daily Free Press*, 23rd November, 1875.)

In our obituary of yesterday we announced the decease of this gentleman, whose name as senior partner in the firm of A. Pirie and Sons, papermakers, was very widely known both in Europe and America, and who died at Dresden on Saturday, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

The deceased was the third son of the late Alexander Pirie of Waterton, his two eldest brothers being Mr. P. Pirie Gordon of Buthlaw and Mr. Francis Pirie. The paper works at Stoneywood belonged to Mr. Pirie, senior, who was also connected with one or two other local manufacturing businesses.

In 1836, Mr. Francis Pirie was admitted a partner; and in 1839 Mr. Alexander Pirie. Up to that time the business of the paper works had been both small and fluctuating. Shortly after his sons had joined his business, Mr. Pirie, senior, retired from it, and the two young men became the sole partners. Both had eminent talents for business, and, soon after entering the firm, they commenced that course of extension and improvement which has gone on steadily since, until the business

has grown to be the largest in Scotland, and one of the best known in the world, especially as regards the production of the finer qualities of writing paper. The extent of ground covered by the works at Stoneywood alone represents the area of a large village ; and, in addition to these, the firm have extensive works at Woodside, where the preparatory processes in paper-making chiefly have been carried on hitherto ; and their envelope factory at Poynernook, Aberdeen, forming a distinct branch, and employing a large number of hands. Altogether, the number of workers employed by the firm of Messrs. A. Pirie and Sons is about 2500, apart from the Culter Paper Works, now owned by a joint stock company, but in which they were interested as partners. The extension of their works was not only a great boon to the locality in furnishing employment where industrial employment was much needed ; but the nature of the work at envelope making, for example, did not a little in providing a kind of work which, from its light and cleanly character, was extremely suitable for respectable girls.

Up to 1870, when he died, Mr. Francis Pirie continued in the business as senior partner : his younger brother, Mr. Gordon Pirie, having joined the firm a few years before his death, and two of his sons at that time. Since 1870, the gentleman just deceased had been senior partner, having also the active management. As already stated, his business capabilities were of a high order, and this was fully manifested in the quick judgment concerning, and prompt adoption of improved process of manufacture, as well as in the thorough and minute acquaintance he exhibited of all the details in every part of a very large and complicated business.

As a public man Mr. Pirie was best known, perhaps, in connection with the carrying forward and management of the Aberdeen Railway. In 1848, when matters connected with the formation of that Railway were in a difficult position, the party with which he was associated got into the ascendant at the board of the Company, and thereafter had the control of affairs, both in completing the undertaking and discharging the duties of the directorate. The late Lord James Hay was appointed chairman, and Mr. Pirie was deputy-chairman of directors. In that capacity much of the real work of the Board fell upon him, and he was spokesman on all critical and important occasions. In both respects he was fully equal to the service required. As a speaker he was clear and forcible, dealing especially with masses of figures in a way that few men could have surpassed ; and in the guiding of complicated arrangements, his great administrative powers were of the highest value for a series of years. Many will not have forgot an incidental service he rendered about 1858, when the railways converging at Perth quarrelled about the station accommodation there, throwing the entire goods traffic to the

North into temporary confusion, and which well illustrated his aptitude in affairs, and the thoroughly practical cast of his mind. At that time Mr. Pirie was hastily called in, and, mainly through his shrewd counsels and very efficient aid, the dispute was promptly adjusted on a mutually satisfactory basis. Mr. Pirie had also, at different times, taken an active interest in promoting some of our steam companies, and was a director of both the Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company and Newcastle and Hull Steam Shipping Company.

In private life Mr. Pirie was a man of wide information and cultivated tastes. As will be recollected, he took a lively interest in the promotion of the recent Fine Arts Exhibition, himself exhibiting a number of very valuable and rare specimens of glass and porcelain. About 1860, after retiring from the railway directorate, he went to the Continent for the education of his family, and resided generally abroad till 1867, since which time he has been at home residing at Seaton House, and taking an active part in the management of the business of the firm, of which he was the head, till about a couple of months ago when he went to Germany.

. . . . . .

(From the *Aberdeen Journal*, 24th November, 1875.)

Among those who in recent times have helped to develop the commercial resources of Aberdeen, the name of Alexander Pirie deserves a place of distinction. His biography, if it were written, would serve to illustrate the history of paper-making in its most important phases. In 1839, after spending a few years in Russia, and acquiring some experience in business, Mr. Pirie joined the business founded by his grandfather at Stoneywood, and then carried on by his father, Mr. Alexander Pirie of Waterton, and his elder brother, Mr. Francis, who had been about three years at the business. At that time the process of paper-making was of a primitive kind, and was carried on by hand labour, the product of the firm being chiefly the coarser kinds of brown paper. The successive stages of development were marked by the production, first of the rough lighter paper, known as "grey," then of "news," and subsequently of writing papers, for which the firm have earned a world-wide reputation. More recently they have added paper-staining to their business, and the quantity of surface-coloured paper of every hue produced by the firm is of itself enormous. The works at Stoneywood are the largest of their kind in Great Britain, and much of the success which has hitherto attended the firm has been due to the energy and skill brought to bear in its management by the subject of this obituary, and which led to its products being known in every market in the world. . . . . Besides the works at Stoneywood, which cover a large area of ground, and present the appearance of a considerable

village, the firm have also works at Woodside, where the preparatory stages of the manufacture are carried on; while at Union Works at Poynernook, envelope-making is carried on upon a large scale. Mr. Francis Pirie died in 1870, and since then Mr. Alexander Pirie has been the senior partner of the firm, dividing the responsibility of its management with his brother, Mr. Gordon Pirie, who joined the firm a few years previously, and two sons who have since joined. As already stated, a large share of the active work devolved upon Mr. Alexander Pirie during his long connection with the firm, and his intimate acquaintance with every detail of the art and process of paper-making enabled him to adopt, with a fine discrimination, such improvements in machinery and chemical appliances as are really useful and profitable. He also displayed rare sagacity in obtaining the best of workmen in every department; nor was he less anxious in his desire, in conjunction with his brother, to secure the comfort of the numerous employés of the firm. About ten years ago they erected schools at Stoneywood, and feued a large recreation ground, and these have been since maintained at considerable expense. With the interests of an enterprise of such magnitude as the paper works under his care, it was little wonder that Mr. Pirie showed no disposition to assume the responsibilities of public office. At various times in the history of local politics his name was mentioned for the Provostship, and he was occasionally spoken of as representative of the city in Parliament, but for neither did he manifest any inclination. In politics he was a Liberal, and he acted as proposer of Mr. George Thompson when he was elected member for the city. More recently he proposed Mr. Farley Leith, on which occasion the warmth of his reception showed that he would have been no unwelcome candidate for the highest of honours which the citizens had to bestow, had his ambition pointed that way. It was in the direction of commercial enterprise, however, that he found the greatest scope for usefulness. In everything of a business kind in which he took part, his counsels to a large extent prevailed. Although not holding municipal office, Mr. Pirie took a deep interest in all that concerned the welfare of the community. He was a man of refined tastes and an enthusiast in the Fine Arts. His collection of paintings, china, and articles of *vertu* generally, is very valuable. His collection of china alone is believed to be unrivalled in every department, except perhaps the Oriental; and the display which his single contribution of glass and porcelain made at the recent Fine Arts Exhibition here was such as could hardly be surpassed for intrinsic beauty. About 1860, after retiring from the railway directorate, Mr. Pirie went to the Continent for the education of his family, and resided generally abroad till 1867, when he took up his abode at Seaton House, continuing to take an

active part in the management of the business of which he was head till about a couple of months ago, when he went to Germany. It was while staying in Dresden, that, on Saturday last, he died of heart disease, to which for some time previous he was consciously subject. Mr. Pirie was married to a daughter of the late Colonel Martin Lindsay, 78th Highlanders. Two of his sons are now, we believe, connected as partners with the firm of Messrs. A. Pirie & Sons.

MUGIEMOSS.

The following is a list of the proprietors of the Lands of Mugiemoss since 1696 :—

1696—William Alexander of Auchmull.

Feb. 11, 1708—The Rev. Alexander Alexander, minister at Glass, and brother of the above.

Oct. 4, 1710—Alexander Alexander, son of said Rev. A. Alexander.

May 2, 1724—Dr. John Gordon of Hilton.

Jan. 5, 1735—James Moir, younger, Stoneywood.

July 4, 1735—Thomas Erskine of Pittodry.

Oct. 23, 1738—James Moir, younger, Stoneywood.

Nov. 6, 1782—John Craig, Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeenshire.

July 20, 1795—James Forbes of Seaton.

Jan. 13, 1830—Lady James Hay, daughter of said James Forbes of Seaton, and spouse to Lord James Hay.

Aug. —, 1862—James Gordon Hay, son of Lord and Lady James Hay.

May 14, 1877—Alex, Pirie & Sons.

The first of the family of the Davidsons of Mugiemoss that we know of, is John Davidson, a dyer in Tarland, and a man of more than ordinary physical strength. He married a daughter of Farquharson of Invercauld, by whom he had three sons and one daughter. About the year 1770, he removed from Tarland to Farburn, Newhills, and for some time was connected with the Waulk Mill at Woodside. He died at Grandholme towards the end of last century, at

the age of 45 years. Charles, one of his sons, was bred a millwright in Aberdeen, and was afterwards at the Waulk Mill, Grandhome, at the opposite side of the river Don to Stoneywood Works. After being a few years in partnership with Charles Smith, paper maker, Stoneywood, he returned to Grandhome, where he continued until the year 1811, when he started mills at Mugiemoss.

MUGIEMOSS PAPER WORKS.

On the 2nd of April, 1811, Charles Davidson, designed Millwright, then residing at Waulk Mill at Grandhome, entered into a tack of the dwelling-houses and grounds about Mugiemoss, with James Forbes of Seaton, then proprietor, where he erected a Waulk Mill, and also a Flax-beating Mill; and in the year 1817 he commenced a Snuff Mill, which was kept going until 1830. In the year 1821, he commenced paper-making, laying aside the Waulk Mill and the Flax-beating Mill.

After a time Charles Davidson had the assistance of his sons, William and George, who entered the business, and applied themselves with great energy and mechanical skill to the best methods of conducting the manufacture of paper, and were very successful in increasing and perfecting their business.

It may here be mentioned that George, who retired from the business some thirty years ago, was well known as a man endowed with unusual mechanical ingenuity, which, in many cases, he successfully brought to bear in the practical details and appliances required in connection with the growing establishment at Mugiemoss.

Charles Davidson's grandsons—Charles, George, Alexander, John, and David—having with great ability followed up their advantageous position, the Works have now reached their present magnitude. Some idea of the extent of these Works may be formed when we mention that there are on the premises over 20 steam engines and 6 water wheels for driving the machinery, and there are two

machines alone that turn out 100 tons of paper per week. The title of the firm is now Charles Davidson & Sons, Limited.

George Davidson, second son of William Davidson already mentioned, who died in 1875, as recorded below, was a young man possessed of an active and inventive mind, a notable instance being his invention of a machine which he brought out for making and pasting merchants' bags from the web. This machine, which was patented, is considered a great invention, and is capable of turning out an average of about 4000 bags per hour.

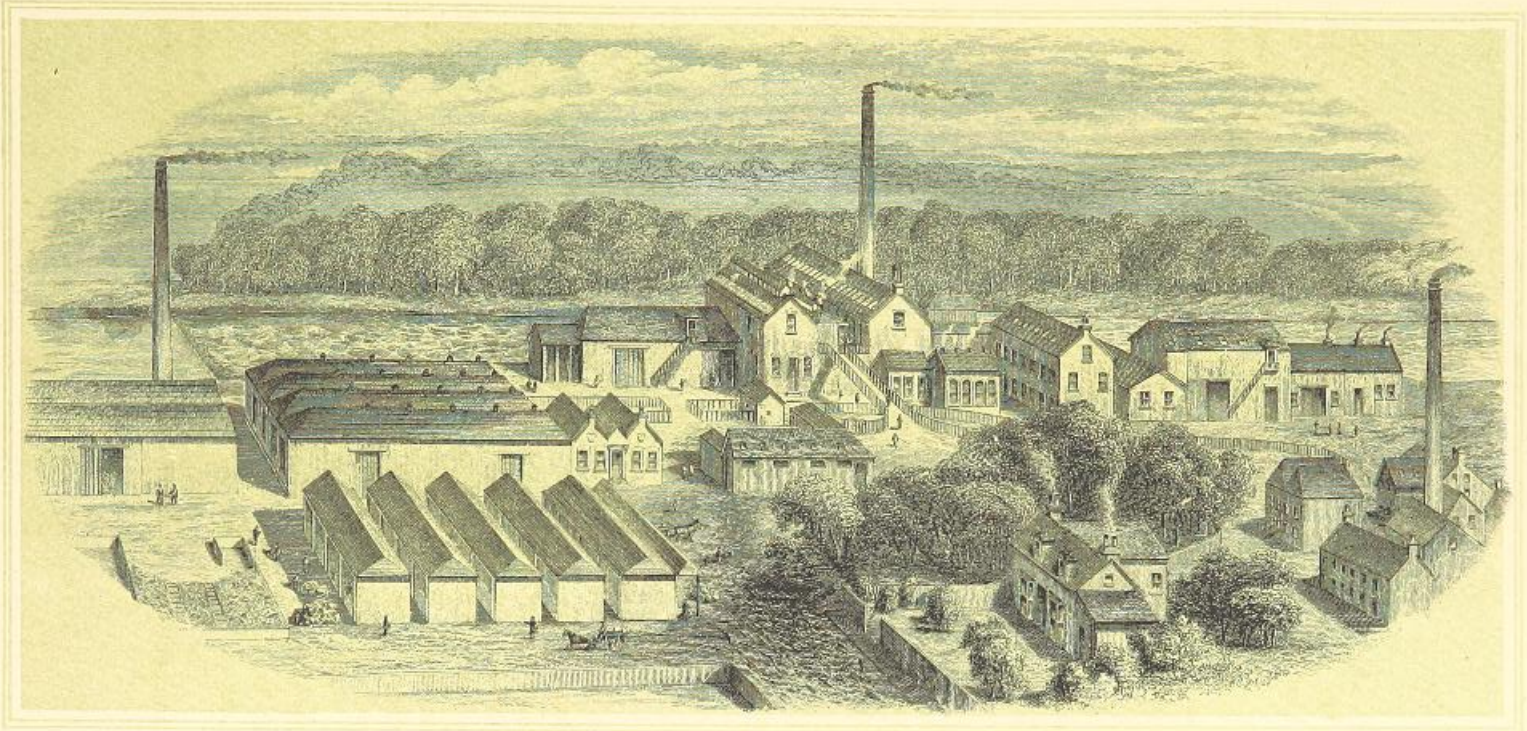
Charles Davidson, Mugiemoss, died 17th June, 1843, aged 71 years. William Davidson, son of the above, died 19th March, 1873, aged 68 years. Charles, eldest son of the above William Davidson, died 24th April, 1870, aged 38 years. This last Charles Davidson married Elizabeth Birnie, a member of an interesting family, who lived many years at the Grove, Auchmull.

George, second son of the above William Davidson, died 21st April, 1875, aged 38 years.

About the year 1818 James Hogg started paper-making in what was originally the Meal Mill of Waterton. He was succeeded by Robert M'Killiam, father of Mr. M'Killiam, sen., confectioner in Aberdeen; and after him came Thomas Jaffray, who considerably improved the place. About 50 years ago he put in a new iron water wheel, 40 feet in diameter, which was driven by the Greenburn, often deficient in supply during the summer season. None of these gentlemen were successful.

After Mr. Jaffray left, Messrs. Charles Davidson and Sons took over this concern, and carried it on as a branch of their paper-making business for about a quarter of a century.

The smoke from this mill being injurious to the amenities of Waterton House, to which it stood in close



MUGIE MOSS PAPER WORKS.

Messrs Charles Davidson & Sons, Lp

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proximity, the Messrs. Pirie declined to renew the lease. The mill was recently taken down.

The great prosperity which has attended the paper manufacture at Stoneywood and Mugiemoss, suggests an inquiry as to the probable reason for such happy results as we find in that quarter; and although it may appear somewhat presumptuous to venture an opinion on the subject, we feel constrained to record our belief that the growth and extent of these Works are in great part to be attributed to the qualities of mind and heart which have distinguished the proprietors all throughout their history. Some of them have been characterised by a robust ingeniousness, combined with good common-sense; others again by quick perceptive faculties, with a readiness to appropriate available improvements, and occasionally a brave, yet not rash, extension of the business; and we may add to all these, what is more important as an element of success than may at first appear, viz.—a healthy, kindly sympathy with the workers.

Our history of Stoneywood Works would not be complete without recording the name of James Reid, who was nearly fifty years manager of Stoneywood Paper Works. He came to Stoneywood in the year 1801, from Newbattle Paper Mills near Dalkeith, which belonged to his uncle, Archibald Keith, and now to the Messrs. R. Craig & Sons. He was a wise and faithful servant, a just and generous master, a man of scrupulous integrity, and much respected throughout the long period of his connection with the works. In consideration of his faithful services, the Messrs. Pirie kindly granted him a retiring allowance in his declining years. He was an elder of the Reverend Samuel Macmillan's (Relief) Congregation in Aberdeen. He died 13th February, 1855, in the 75th year of his age.

Old Mansion House of Stoneywood.

WE quote the following advertisement, from the *Aberdeen Journal*, 15th February, 1790, which, we believe, refers to the old Mansion House of Stoneywood, exhibiting its early connection with the manufacture of wool :—

"MANUFACTURES.

"At Stoneywood, 4 miles from Aberdeen, 20 acres of land (or more or less) along the banks of the Don, with a command of water in any quantity over the said grounds and a fall of many feet, fit to work mills and all kinds of machinery. On the grounds a House substantially built, and well adapted for a Manufactory, forming three sides of a square, and having 20 Rooms of good dimensions, besides Garrets, Closets, and Kitchen; also a large Court of detached Offices, which, like the House, are built of stone and slated, and might easily be converted into useful accommodation. Plenty of hands to be had at Aberdeen and neighbourhood, and wages are still moderate.

"Apply to Mr. Forbes, the proprietor, Seaton, Aberdeen."

Walter Thom in his "History of Aberdeen (1811)," informs us that :—

"Mr. Charles Baird, silk dyer, son of William Baird, silk dyer for many years in the Gallowgate, was the first who successfully introduced machinery in the manufacture of wool in Aberdeen. He went to England and brought home from Rochdale two carding engines, and four spinning jennies, and other machines at considerable expense.

"That part of the machinery which required the power of water was erected at Stoneywood." * This was most likely in the wool mill attached to the gable of the east wing of the old Mansion-House.

In 1789, Alexander Smith, paper-maker, Stoneywood, granted a *sub-tack* to Charles Baird, silk dyer in Aberdeen, of part of the Island of Stoneywood, near the inver of the Greenburn, for 95 years, on which Baird became bound to erect a Waulk Mill.

This sub-tack subsequently belonged (if, indeed, it did not belong from the first) to the firm of Charles Baird and Co., of which Smith was a partner, there being six partners in all.

In 1795, Smith & Baird sold their two sixth shares to the other four partners, viz. :—Patrick Barron, of Woodside; Thomas and Robert Kilgour, manufacturers, Kinmundy, and Thomas Black, druggist in Aberdeen.

In 1807, Baird & Co. sold the concern (*i.e.* the sub-tack) to the firm of Alexander Midler & Co., manufacturers at Stoneywood, of which the partners were Alexander Midler and William Johnston, both merchants in Aberdeen; William Selbie, dyer at New Bridge, Aberdeen; and Robert Watson, Mill of Stoneywood, who acted as manager.

*Mr. Matthew Young, who came to Aberdeen to fit up the machinery at Stoneywood, which Mr. Charles Baird brought from Rochdale in 1790, at the same time repaired some machines to Miss Mosley at the Tambouring Factory (Blue Houses), Buxburn. Soon after this, he fitted up woollen machinery for the Messrs. Kilgour at Kinmundy; and about the year 1797 he and Robert Ogston (afterwards his brother-in-law) built and started the woollen mill at Strichen, under the firm of Young & Ogston. This mill is still going. They also built a woollen mill at Turriff. Mr. Jervise, in his "Epitaphs," mentions among cases of longevity in Turriff those of Matthew Young his wife Margaret Ogston, and her brother William, whose ages were 82, 96, and 86 respectively, and we might add Robert, another brother, who reached the age of 92 years. Barbara Ann Ogston Young, daughter of the above Matthew Young, died in Aberdeen on 30th January, 1886, aged 74 years. Mrs. John C. Couper, Craigiebuckler, is a grand-daughter of the said Matthew Young.

In 1841, Midler & Co. sold the concern to Alexander Pirie & Sons.

This small mill was carried on, for some years before it was stopped, by Alexander Howie and John Tytler.

———

The following is an extract from a lease granted to a Miss Catherine Sime, dated 9th May, 1805, which is interesting :—

"Part of the quarry hole and Mansion-house of Stoneywood, measuring 28 feet from east to west, which piece of ground is intended for a stance or station for a mill-house, to be built as after-mentioned. The water wheel to be used by her to be not less than 16 feet diameter, having a ring 5 feet broad, for 50 years, and to erect in the said mill-house machinery for a snuff mill, not consisting of more than 3 tubs, and a cutting work, to which extent the said machinery is to be restricted during the lease. Miss Sime will be at liberty to enlarge the mill-house to the extent of 60 feet long by 45 feet wide, including the space called the mill-house, hereby let, and to use the same for any other manufacturing purpose not offensive and not requiring a greater quantity of water than the said snuff-mill, consisting of three tubs."

Catherine Sime was of the firm of Lawrence & Sime, tobacco and snuff manufacturers in Aberdeen, which partnership was dissolved in May, 1806. The business was continued by Catherine Sime.

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STONEYWOOD BLEACHFIELD AND PRINTFIELD.

Bleachfields were very numerous in and around Aberdeen during the latter part of last century, as we find in the advertisements in the newspapers of that period.

The site of the Stoneywood Bleachfield were the fields about Redpool, some of which were levelled for that purpose, where they had the advantage of the Greenburn

and another tributary burn. The buildings were those previously used for the Sugar House, and which at a later date, when the Bleachfield was given up, were turned into a meal mill, and occupied successively by James Livingston —— Pyot, Alexander Cowie, &c. The buildings stood at the back of Bellfield Terrace, and were recently removed.

The following advertisement from the *Aberdeen Journal*, 26th May, 1800, will give the reader some idea of the Stoneywood Bleachfield :—

"NEW STONEYWOOD BLEACHFIELD AND PRINTFIELD.

"Robert Macfarlane has laid down cloth this season at his field at Stoneywood, near Aberdeen, and Bleaches at the following prices, after the most approved method, without the use of Rubbing Boards, or any other machine that may prove the least injurious to the fabric of the cloth :—

"For narrow linen, not exceeding 28 inches, or three-fourths of a yard broad, 2d. per yard.

"In an 800 Reed 2½d, 1100 Reed 3½d, 1200 to 1300 Reed 4d, 1400 to 1500 Reed 4½d, 1600 to 1700 Reed 5d, 1800 and finer 5½d.

"Cambrics and Lawns at 3d. per yard.

"He completely finishes Muslins, Pullicates, in any way the manufacturer desires.

"Muslin dresses received for cleaning at the field by James Ferguson, opposite the Infirmary.

"R. M., for the purpose of introducing the new system of Bleaching, has engaged William Holmes, an experienced bleacher, who for these 12 years past has conducted one of the principal Bleachfields in Glasgow."

In the year 1821, Andrew Martin, and afterwards Alexander Glass, had a Bleachfield going at Redpool, which was carried on for some years.

Sclattie.

IT is said that the Lands of Sclattie were granted by "Saint David" (King David I. of Scotland) to Bishop Nectan of Aberdeen. About 1150-65, they were granted by King Malcolm to Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen.

In 1373, Donald Bannerman, the King's physician, had certain portions of the Lands of Clyntres, Waterton, and Welton from the King, and also the Lands of "Slatie" from Bishop Kyninmond. Donald had a son or near relative, Alexander, Provost of Aberdeen in 1382, from whom sprung the family of Elsick.

It appears from a list of the rental of King's College that the Lands of Sclattie had been held by the Frasers, probably the Frasers of Stoneywood. In 1637, "Sklaittie-hill" was rented at 2 bolls of bere, 4 bolls of meal, and £26 13s. 4d. of "Siluer." In 1717, the rental is "Fraser's half of Skletie—£27 13s. 4d., and Sandiland's half of Skletie is £13 13s. 4d." After them Sclattie was held successively by Farquharson of Invercauld, Aberdein of Cairnbulg, Dr. John Chalmers, Mrs. Maria Chalmers or Scott, and from the latter they passed to James Forbes of Seaton, on 15th December, 1803; and after him the succession is the same as that of Stoneywood, already noted.

Dr. John Chalmers, Principal of King's College, proprietor of Sclattie, being passionately fond of agricultural pursuits, devoted much time to the cultivation of his Estate of Sclattie. The following story is told of him :—

"When out riding one day, Dr. Chalmers fell from his horse. On hearing of the accident two of the professors,

each of whom expected to be promoted to the office of Principal whenever a vacancy occurred, immediately proceeded to ascertain by personal observation and inquiry what prospect there was of a speedy attainment of the object of their cherished hopes. The disinterested pair, having each taken a different route, met at the bedside of their unfortunate colleague, where they waited in silence until he awoke from a doze into which he had fallen. No sooner had the patient opened his eyes and perceived the presence of his two "Friens," of whose ambitious views he was perfectly aware, than instantly divining the true object of their visit of pretended sympathy, he inquired with a sarcastic touch of grim humour—'Well, gentlemen, which of you is to be the Principal?' It is satisfactory to be able to add that the worthy Doctor survived both the 'anxious inquirers.'"

Dr. John Chalmers became a professor in the year 1741, and succeeded to the Principalship of King's College on the death of Dr. George Chalmers in 1746, and held that office until his death, which occurred at Sclattie on the 7th day of April, 1800, in the 89th year of his age.

On 22nd December, 1802, Sclattie was advertised for sale, and is described as consisting of "about 340 Scots acres, whereof only 4 acres are at present under lease. Distance from Aberdeen 3 to 4 miles, with the Inverurie turnpike road passing through the middle of the Lands, and the Aberdeenshire Canal passing through the north-east corner.

"The soil is known to be of an excellent quality, and well adapted for all varieties of crops, or for being planted with forest trees, as may be seen by a very thriving wood now on the premises."

Principal Chalmers' house was situated on the hill of Sclattie; and, as the quarry of Sclattie worked its way upward on the hill, the house had to be taken down; and

although it was built upon a rock, both the house and the rock had to give way to the powder and skill of the quarrier.

Stone quarries in Sclattie have been carried on at different periods by William Thom, William Glennie, George Smith, George Milne, —— Calder, John Glennie, David Glennie, Messrs. John Fraser & Son, and Messrs. A. & F. Manuelle, who are now in possession.

Alexander Troup, who occupied the Mill of Sclattie for many years, had in the early part of the present century a small weaving factory going for some time close upon the meal mill. Mr. Troup, who was much respected, died 21st November, 1851, aged 69 years. His son Alexander is a wholesale stationer and printer (Messrs. A. King & Co.) in Aberdeen.

Charles Brown, who for many years occupied the Lower Meal Mill of Sclattie, was well known for his drollery. One day, while walking along the quay with the late Mr. Neil Smith, he observed a lorry passing with two large casks of whisky. Mr. Brown said—"Dee ye see that?" pointing to the casks. "And what about that, Mr. Brown?" "Weel, that 's twa o' the deevil's eggs, and when they 're hatched they 'll produce a gey brood."

After Mr. Brown gave up business he met two very intimate friends at Inveruric, where he had a large girnal in a store there, which held 50 bolls. One of the friends, being in the same trade, said—"You'll give me your big girnal, Mr. Brown." "Na, na," says Mr. Brown, "I'm to give it Mr. ——·—— here," the other friend, who was a very religious man. "Oh," says the other, "what can he do with it?" To which Mr. Brown replied—"He'll need it a', he'll need it a' to haud his self-righteousness!"

Mr. Brown, who died in 1876, instituted, in 1873, a fund for the purpose of carrying on Home Mission and Evangelistic Work in the Parish of Newhills, and for charitable purposes at the discretion of the trustees. Mr. D. Mitchell, advocate, is agent for this trust.

Buxburn

THE author of "A View of the Diocese of Aberdeen" quaintly suggests that the name is derived from the fact that "it abounds with moss, and perhaps of old with bucks, quhence Bucks-moss, Bucksbourn."

We have in another place referred to several mills at Buxburn, and we quote the following merely to show the extent and position of this small Estate, which was on the 28th September, 1822, exposed for sale in way of feu by the Town Council :—

"The TOWN and LANDS with the MILL of BUXBURN, consisting of about 150 acres, pleasantly situated in the parish of Newhills, and within three miles of the town of Aberdeen.

"The premises have an extensive view of the sea and a pretty extensive view of the adjacent country. There are upwards of 50 acres of the ground, which have been long in cultivation, of an excellent natural soil.

"On the south and west, the premises are sheltered by the thriving plantation of Springhill and Shettocksley.

"They are divided from the lands of Newhills, which lie on the north-west side, by a stream of water which supplies the Mill, and, from the nature of the banks, a Dam may be easily formed and the water raised so as to command a powerful fal'.

"The Feuars will be entitled to the privilege of casting and winning peats in the Town of Aberdeen's public mosses in common with the other vassals.

"Upset Feu duty, £220."

It does not appear that Buxburn was disposed of at the above date.

We find that the estate was feued on the 22nd December, 1827, to George Gordon, to whom a charter was granted by the Aberdeen Town Council, dated 1st January, 1828, for a feu-duty of £162 ; and after George Gordon the lands were held successively by William Adam (Messrs. Adam & Anderson) William Mackenzie, John Ligertwood, Sheriff-Clerk, and now by his Trustees.

TAMBOURING MILL.

That building, situated in the hollow below the Buxburn Railway Station, called the Blue Houses, was originally built for a Tambouring Factory. The silk embroidering was conducted by a Miss Moseley, a Quaker lady, but the factory had most likely belonged to James Moseley, who, we find as early as 3rd May, 1762, had a silk factory in the Gallowgate Head, Aberdeen ; and again, in 1770, he advertises a dissolution of partnership between him and a Mr. Benson, and intimates that he intends carrying on the business where the nobility and gentry will be served as formerly, and hopes for a continuance of their favour and their custom.

We do not know the exact date when this concern began, nor when it stopped ; but we have authentic evidence it was going about the year 1790.

LINT MILL AT BUXBURN.

There was a gentleman who came from the Cape of Good Hope, who for a period carried on, along with John Thom, a lint mill in the hollow near the Blue Houses. He built or lived in that tiled-roofed house on the brae, near the Turnpike Road, called "Good Hope," which had on the gable a belfry, with a bell that was rung in the morning and at meal hours. We may mention in passing that the

now celebrated quarrier and contractor, John Fyfe, first drew breath in this house of "Good Hope."

In the year 1830, John Lindsay, miller, leased for sixty years the above-mentioned Flax Scutching Mill, which is described as "the Lint Mill at Auchmull, formerly possessed by John Thom."

About the year 1867, Mr. George Davidson took over John Lindsay's Mill, and soon after turned it into a mill for grinding wood for paper pulp, but after some years it was almost destroyed by fire. It was again set agoing by Mr. Milne, and also Messrs. Purdie & Wilson, and was again destroyed by fire, and is now in a ruinous condition.

About eighty years ago, a CALICO PRINTING business was carried on in the building which stands on the elevated ground not many yards from what was the flour mill, the upper floor of which was sometime used as a preaching station by the adherents of the Free Church at Buxburn, in 1843, before their present place of worship was erected. There is a gravestone in Newhills Burying-ground, dated 1808, on which is the name of "Matthew Moncrieff, *calico printer*, Buxburn."

There was a Carding Mill at Buxburn advertised for sale on 1st January, 1806, in the following terms :—

"A lease for 31 years after the term of Whitsunday next to John M'Hardy and John M'Intosh, of that large Mill at Buxburn with the whole machinery, consisting of a Scrubler, Carder, Slobber, Teazer, Spinning Jenny, and Reel, and a New Water Wheel of 15 feet. Also, a Meal Mill and Kiln, properly furnished with iron and covered with tiles. The whole machinery of the Mill is almost new and of the best kind, and will be sold separately, or along with the lease, as purchasers may incline.

"The Mill House is large and commodious, consisting of four different flats, each 41 by 31 feet, with a flatted roof, and as there is a great command of water by a new canal from the river Don in all seasons of the year."

We never heard of a *Cotton* Mill at Buxburn until we came upon the following advertisement, on the 12th February, 1806 :—

"TO MANUFACTURERS.

"On Friday, the 7th March next, will be sold within Anderson's Hotel, Queen Street,

"The whole *Cotton* Spinning Machinery and utensils in that line of business, as they presently stand in that large Mill House at Buxburn, immediately east of the Flour Mill there.

"As the machinery is in complete order, they are an object for any person desirous to enter upon, or extend the business of *Cotton* Spinning."

The two mills just referred to we take to be the "Blue and Reed" Mill which was one building separated only by a wall. The one half was covered with slates and the other half with tiles. One of the mills at least was built about the close of last century, and was used for woollen manufacture by John M'Hardy and John M'Intosh, and afterwards occupied by Robert Machray & Co., which Company consisted of Robert Machray, John Scroggie, and Alexander Machray, dyers, Aberdeen.

It would appear from the following advertisement dated 22nd November, 1809, that part of this mill or some place near was used as a paper mill :—

"On Saturday, the 25th inst., there will be exposed by public roup at Buxburn, the whole of the Machinery of the Paper Mill there belonging to Alexander Stephen, together with some paper, etc."

James Hogg occupied a paper mill here, previous to his starting the little mill at Waterton. George Davidson, son of Charles Davidson, Mugiemoss, was trained to the business of paper-making under James Hogg. Alexander Mearns had a small waulk mill, close upon the Buxburn Mill, and upon the same grounds the Baker Trade built a

large Flour Mill. The lease was granted to George Sim, merchant, Aberdeen; Robert Spring, Alexander Barron, John Gray, and William Seaton, all bakers in Aberdeen, and all partners of Barron, Spring, & Co., corn merchants, Aberdeen, for and on account of that Company. The lease was for 51 years from and after Candlemas, 1801.

John Milne, the well-known hangman, was employed as a mason's labourer at the erection of this mill, but having stolen some sacks of corn from a farmer in Blackburn, he escaped imprisonment, or something worse, only by his consenting to become hangman.

This Flour, Meal, and Barley Mill was fitted up, in 1803, with machinery of the most approved construction, according to a plan by Mr. Rennie, engineer. The mill-house consisted of four floors, and contained machinery for driving two pair of stones for grinding wheat, one pair for oats, also a bolting machine, a machine for dressing wheat, and a "fanners." There was attached to the mill a kiln, substantially built, with metal cover; but, notwithstanding the superiority and completeness of the arrangements, Messrs. Barron, Spring, & Co., became bankrupt in 1804, and the place was offered for sale on the 20th June that year. We do not know whether the mill was shut at that time, but we know that the concern was going at least thirty years after, under the designation of Spring, Barron, & Co.

Nearly fifty years ago there was built a Meal Mill in close proximity to the Wool Mill at Buxburn. This Meal Mill was carried on for some years, and belonged to, and was chiefly supported by, the advocates of the People's Charter of those days, and known as the Chartist's Mill.

There was also, about the same time, at Buxburn, a grocer's store, belonging to and carried on by a Co-operative Company called "Economists." There was another company of "Economists" at the same time at Woodside. These enterprises did not fulfil the expectations of the promoters, and only lasted for a few years.

There are now, however, in both these places, branches of the "Northern Co-operative Company" of Aberdeen, established in 1861. The foregoing shows how history repeats itself.

On the 23rd June, 1831, William and Patrick Pirie, sons of Patrick Pirie of Stoneywood, leased from Lord and Lady James Hay :—

"The mill at Buxburn, lately possessed by John M'Hardy, and the mill presently possessed by Robert Machray & Co., with the use of the water of the Don as it falls from the Flour Mill, presently rented by Spring, Barron, and Company, and the use of the water of Buxburn for the purpose of driving Wool, Cotton, or Flax Machinery ; also the ground and houses presently possessed by Alexander Mearns, and the Haugh ground, presently possessed by John Lindsay, all lying to the north of the Old Greenburn and Inveruric Road, &c."

This firm enlarged the mill considerably, but after about seven or eight years gave it up, when it was occupied by the Messrs. Barker, who in their turn left it, when it came into the hands of Messrs. Alexander Howie & Sons, who carried it on for a number of years. Mr. James Kilgour (now of Berryden Woollen Factory), after working it for a short time, sold it to the Messrs. Davidson, Mugiemoss, and it now forms a branch of their large establishment.

PAPER MILLS AT CULTER AND DEVANHA.

Though travelling beyond the area of our inquiries, we shall, before leaving Stoneywood, Mugiemoss, and Buxburn, give a short account of the Culter and Devanha Paper Mills.

We have already mentioned in another part that the first Paper Mill about Aberdeen was begun at Gordon's Mills, in the year 1696, by Patrick Sandilands, the Laird of Cotton, who for several years manufactured all kinds of paper.

The next Paper Mill about Aberdeen was erected in

1750 at Peterculter, and was set agoing by Bartholomew Smith on the 1st day of January, 1751, six men being engaged in the different parts of the process.

We copy the following advertisement from the *Aberdeen Journal*, dated 8th January, 1751 :—

"BARTHOLOMEW SMITH,

"Paper-maker from England, who has now rented and set agoing on the Burn of CULTER a PAPER MILL, where he can serve the country in paper, fine and coarse, Brown Paper, Pasteboard, Pressing Cards for Dysters, &c., gives notice that he buys rags of all kinds of Flax or Hemp by the stoneweight, and designs for that end to come to Aberdeen every Friday. Mr. Smith expects that, as his undertaking is so beneficial to the country, every person will be careful to save their materials for his work, which formerly were thrown away useless."

Bartholomew Smith was succeeded by Richard Smith and Lewis Smith as proprietors of Culter Mills.

The following are the last six lines of an epitaph on Lewis Smith, proprietor of Culter Mills, who died on the 13th February, 1819, aged 42 years :—

If social manners with a taste refined,
If sterling worth with unassuming mind,
If filial tenderness possess a charm,
If steady friendship can your bosom warm,
Then, reader, imitate, applaud, revere,
What triumphed in the man that's buried here.

James, son of Lewis Smith, entered into partnership with William Tullis, at Leslie, in Fife, and had three Paper Mills there for the coarser kinds.

The Culter Mills were advertised for sale on 2nd February, 1820, also on 28th June, 1820, at the reduced upset price of £4500 ; and again, on the 15th November, 1820, upset price reduced to £4000, when the mills were purchased by Alexander Irvine, of Old Aberdeen, uncle to Rev. Mr. Irvine, some time minister successively at Dunottar, Peterhead, and Crimond.

Mr. Irvine carried on the Paper Works of Culter until the year 1838, when he left, and was succeeded by Messrs. Arbuthnot & M'Combie, who carried on the business until the year 1855.

Mr. Robert Arbuthnot of the above firm is a member of the well-known family of Arbuthnot, about Peterhead, and is now living in Aberdeen.

Mr. M'Combie died 8th November, 1840, aged 26. He was brother to the late James B. M'Combie, of the firm of Murray & M'Combie, advocates in Aberdeen.

About the year 1856, the Messrs. Pirie of Stoneywood took over the Works at Culter, and in 1865 the concern was floated, by the Messrs. Pirie and others, into a joint-stock company, and is now in full swing as the Culter Mills Paper Company, Limited.

About the year 1803, a Paper Mill was erected on the north bank of the river Dee, near the Craglug, by Mr. A. Brown, bookseller (afterwards Provost Brown), and Mr. Chalmers, printer. This business was carried on under the firm of Brown, Chalmers, & Co., until the year 1807, when they advertised the sale of "the whole machinery and utensils of that extensive Paper Manufactory lately erected at Ferryhill in the vicinity of Aberdeen, consisting of four paper engines, complete; six vats, six stuff chests, three vat presses, eight dry presses, one size press, Treble's treble posts and hair line, &c.; a complete steam apparatus with boiler, &c.; a blue mill with shafts, spur wheels, &c.; wire-cloth duster, complete; rag tables, boxes, and knives, bleaching apparatus, water cisterns, and moulds of all sorts necessary for carrying on the business of a six-vat mill."

The engines and presses were purchased by Lewis Smith, and taken out to his mill at Culter.

In the same year (1807), William Black, of Messrs. William Black & Co. (then Gilcomston Brewery), advertises that he has left Gilcomston, and "taken those extensive premises, the property of Messrs. Brown, Chalmers, and Co., at Ferryhill, which he is now fitting up as a

Brewery." This was the commencement of the Devanha Brewery.

The late Charles Chalmers of Monkshill, when a lad, served part of an apprenticeship at the Devanha Paper Mill, but as he did not like the business nor the irregular habits of the then paper-makers, he left and chose to follow the more congenial and lucrative legal profession.

Auchmull.

IT is somewhat difficult to account for the name *Auchmull*. *Auch* means a field ; *Mull* either a promontary, a projecting piece of land, or a slip. There was a lip or strip of ground on Auchmull which projected into Middlefield. This strip of land Mr. Thomas Mosman acquired at the "straighting" of the Marches in October, 1754, by a judgment of the Sheriff-Depute. We do not say, however, that these facts sufficiently account for the name. It is, perhaps, more probable that the name, which has been the same for more than 500 years, is derived from a meal mill which may have been on the estate at an early period.

Auchmull at one time seems to have been a place of considerable beauty, with its half-million trees, its regular avenues, its breed of deer, its gardens, and a commanding prospect from the Mansion House ; but these have almost all vanished, and the most enviable attraction left is the fine prospect from the old Mansion House, now inhabited by the workers in the adjoining quarries.

An advertisement in reference to the Mansion House of Auchmull, dated 12th December, 1804, shows that its beauty had not quite departed at that date, there being "a LAWN of about 4 acres in front of the house and other grounds adjoining," then possessed by Mrs. Horn-Elphinstone.

There is a detailed description of Auchmull and Northfield in an advertisement of sale, dated 5th August, 1755, which runs thus :—

The Lands of AUCHMULL and NORTHFIELD, adjoining each other, lying in the Parish of Newhills, up the River Don, and within two

short miles of Aberdeen. They have growing upon them above 500,000 trees of a considerable size, as Firs, Pines, Birch, Ash, Elm, Beech, Plane Tree, Allars, Hazel, Willows of all kinds, and some Oak and Limes, &c., with a breed of Deer, regular avenues, and a good prospect of the sea and adjacent country. The King's College are titulars of both, and in place of all ministers' stipends parsonage and vicarage teinds, they pay to them only £34 13s. Scots annually. The whole lands are well enclosed to a very little, and can be vastly improved ; they contain 226 acres cultivated ground, 127 acres planting, and 163 uncultivated, but very improvable ground. Auchmull is in the Shire, holds fee of my Lord Braco for £4 10s. Scots per annum, and is of valued rent £123 9s. 2d. Scots. It is not bound to any miln, and has right and convenience of building one on itself.

NORTHFIELD is within the freedom and holds feu of the Town of Aberdeen for £30 Scots, is bound to the Town's new miln, and has right and privilege on all their mosses and muirs for foggage and fewel.

The Lands are either in the proprietor's own hand or on account of improvement set far below the value, so that no rental is to be ascertained, but any gentleman inclining to purchase may see the ground and planting on calling on the proprietor at Northfield.

Baillie James Leslie was proprietor at the date of this advertisement.

Auchmull was offered for sale on the 15th October, 1794, for the sum of £9000 sterling. The description at that date was somewhat different, and the free rental was £296 2s. 3½d.

It is stated that upon these lands, according to an estimate made, there was £1744 2s. 2d. sterling value of full-grown wood of various kinds fit for cutting, and a thriving young plantation of considerable value. The proposed canal was to pass through part of the lands.

Upon the estate is the famous granite quarry called DANCING CAIRN, from which the London market was at that date chiefly supplied with pavement and larger stones for public buildings. Other quarries equally good had been opened upon the estate.

Dr. A. Donaldson, proprietor of Auchmull, died in 1793, and at the date of the above advertisement John Burnett of Elrick was acting as his trustee.

In the Poll Book of Aberdeenshire, 1696, an entry

runs thus:—"The Waluatione of the lands of Auchmull and Muggemoss, belonging to Mr. William Alexander, in the said pariochin [Newhills] is £166 13s. 4d.

It will be seen a little farther on that there were several proprietors of Auchmull of the name of Alexander, and it may be mentioned that a daughter of one of these named Jean was married in April, 1733, to Alexander Forbes of Inverernan, known as "Black Jock," son of Forbes of Skelatur. "Black Jock" was the first Forbes of Inverernan.

PROPRIETORSHIP.

In the reign of Robert I., John Crab was proprietor of the Lands of Auchmollen. John Crab has been referred to in the chapter on Craibstone.

In the fourteenth century, David II. granted a charter of the Lands of Auchmyln to Ingraham Cullane. The same monarch confirmed to Alexander de Keth the Lands of Auchmolyn.

Passing over a long period, we come upon a registered contract between the Earl of Buchan and James Gordon, anent the Lands of Auchmull, dated 1628.

The following list of charters will form a complete record of the proprietors of Auchmull and Northfield since 1628 to the present time.

AUCHMULL.

Instrument of Sasine in favour of John Alexander in life-rent, and his sons James and Patrick Alexander, in fee proceeding on a charter in their favour by the Earl of Rothes and Kinghorn, which sasine is dated 16th, and registered at Aberdeen the 18th, both days of May, 1638.

Disposition and Wadsett right by Patrick Alexander in favour of Alexander Alexander, younger, dated 29th December, 1653.

Disposition by the said Alexander Alexander, younger, to his sons Robert and William Alexander, dated 15th March, 1654.

Renunciation and Discharge by the said James Alexander in favour of the said Alexander Alexander, younger, and his sons Robert and William, dated 27th December, 1654.

Renunciation and Discharge by the said Patrick Alexander in favour of the said Alexander Alexander, younger, and his son, the said

William Alexander, dated 22nd, and recorded in said register of Sasines, Reversions, &c., the 23rd, both days of March, 1659.

Disposition by William Alexander in favour of Alexander Alexander, dated 10th February, 1708.

Disposition of Alexander Alexander in favour of his son, Alexander Alexander, dated 4th October, 1710.

Instrument of resignation in favour of the said Alexander Alexander, dated 3rd January, 1718.

Charter thereon by William Duff of Braco, 3rd January, 1718.

Disposition by the said Alexander Alexander in favour of Dr. Gordon, dated 2nd May, 1724, and with ratification by Helen Douglas or Alexander, his spouse, annexed of same date.

Charter of Resignation by William Duff of Braco, in favour of the said Dr. John Gordon, dated 13th September, 1732.

Retour of general service of Dr. James Gordon as nearest and lawful heir of the said Dr. John Gordon, dated 27th September, 1735.

Disposition by the said Dr. James Gordon in favour of Lewis Gordon, dated 23rd July, 1737.

Precept of Clare Constat by William Lord Braco in favour of the said Dr. James Gordon, dated 23rd April, 1747.

Extract registered Disposition by the said Dr. James Gordon in favour of Baillie James Leslie, dated 11th October, 1744.

Charter of Confirmation by William, Earl of Fife, in favour of Baillie James Leslie, dated 19th March, 1760.

Disposition by the said James Leslie and his spouse in favour of Alexander Grant and his spouse, dated 17th August, 1761, with Deed of ratification annexed of same date.

Disposition by the said Captain Alexander Grant and spouse in favour of Dr. Alexander Donaldson, dated 30th December, 1763.

Extract Registered Trust Disposition of the said Dr. Alexander Donaldson, dated 18th August, 1783.

Extract Registered Articles and Minutes of Roup by John Burnett, Trustee of the said Dr. Alexander Donaldson, dated 15th October, 1794.

Extract Registered Disposition by the said John Burnett in favour of James Forbes of Seaton, dated 21st, and registered in the Commissary Court Books of Aberdeen on the 24th, both days of December, 1795.

Charter of Confirmation by James, Earl of Fife, in favour of the said James Forbes, dated 9th November, 1803.

Retour of the general service of Lady James Hay to her father, the said James Forbes, dated 13th January, 1830.

The Superiority of Auchmull was sold by James, Earl of Fife, to Lady James Hay, in 1st March, 1844.

NORTHFIELD.

Charter by the Provost, Baillies, and Council of Aberdeen, in favour of John Alexander, Burgess of Aberdeen, in life-rent, and his sons James and Patrick Alexander, in fee of the lands of Northfield, dated 24th September, 1636.

Disposition and wadsett right by the said Patrick Alexander, in favour of Alexander Alexander, younger, dated 29th December, 1653.

Disposition and wadsett right by the said James Alexander, in favour of the said Alexander Alexander, younger, dated 29th December, 1653.

Disposition by the said Alexander Alexander, younger, in favour of his sons, Robert and William Alexander, 15th March, 1654.

Renunciation and discharge by the said Patrick Alexander to the said Alexander Alexander, dated 22nd March, 1659.

Disposition by the said William Alexander, in favour of the Rev. Alexander Alexander, Minister at Glass, his brother, 11th February, 1708.

Disposition by the said Rev. Alexander Alexander, in favour of Alexander Alexander, his son, dated 4th October, 1710.

Charter of resignation by the Provost, Baillies, and Council, to the said Alexander Alexander, dated 24th September, 1720.

Disposition by the said Alexander Alexander, in favour of Dr. John Gordon in Aberdeen, dated 2nd May, 1724.

Precept of Clare Constat, by the Provost, Baillies, and Council, for infefting Dr. James Gordon as nearest lawful heir of Dr. John Gordon, dated 16th December, 1735.

Disposition by Dr. James Gordon, in favour of Lewis Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen, his youngest brother, dated 23rd July, 1737.

Retour of service in favour of Dr. James Gordon as heir of conquest to the said Lewis Gordon, dated 27th March, 1744.

Disposition by the said Dr. James Gordon, in favour of Baillie James Leslie, in life-rent, and Alexander Leslie, his son, in fee, dated 11th October, 1744.

Disposition by James Leslie, in favour of Captain Alexander Grant, dated 17th August, 1761.

Disposition by the said Alexander Grant, in favour of Dr. Alexander Donaldson, dated 13th December, 1763.

Extract Disposition by John Burnett of Elrick, Trustee of the said Dr. Alexander Donaldson, in favour of James Forbes of Seaton, dated 21st December, 1795.

There is reference made, in some records we have seen, to Dr. James Donaldson of Auchmull, and though his name

does not appear in the preceding list of charters, yet in all likelihood he resided for a time at Auchmull. He was the son of Robert Donaldson, by his wife, Issobell Irvine, of Cults, and was born in 1699. He was a physician in Aberdeen, and Professor of Medicine in Marischal College in 1732. He married at Hilton, on 5th December, 1772, Katherine Gordon (who died 1755), daughter of John Gordon, M.D., of Hilton, and sister of James Gordon, M.D., of Hilton, who eventually succeeded to the family property of Pitlurg. Dr. James Donaldson died 25th July, 1761. Alexander Donaldson, M.D., of Auchmull, eldest son of James, was born 4th March, 1731, and married on the 3rd of August, 1779, Hope, daughter of John Burnett, of Elrick, widow of James Davidson, of Midmar. Dr. Alexander Donaldson was also a Professor of Medicine in Marischal College. He died 19th May, 1793.

Dr. James Moir, who was one of the leading physicians in Aberdeen, married, in 1802, his cousin-german, Janet, youngest daughter and co-heir of Captain John Byres, by his wife, Isobel Donaldson of Auchmull.

[See "Family of Moirs and Byres," by A. J. M. Gill.]

Inscription on tombstone in St. Nicholas Churchyard:—

"Under this stone, in the place of sepulture appropriated during 200 years for her maternal ancestors of the name of Donaldson, the last of Auchmull, are deposited the remains of Janet, the wife of Dr. Moir, Physician in Aberdeen, who died on the 17th June, 1818, aged 37. Also of their son James, who died in April, 1826, aged 9 years; and of the above Dr. Moir, who departed this life 4th November, 1861, aged 91."

Some of the facts mentioned below, relating to James Forbes of Seaton, have already been recorded in preceding pages, but for the sake of connection they are here taken in.

James Forbes of Seaton, son of William Forbes, is said to be of the family of Forbes of Newe. James Forbes was married to a daughter of Admiral William Gordon.

She died in 1841. Forbes of Seaton had an only son, William Oswald Forbes, who died February, 1794. Mr. Forbes was a Justice of the Peace, and Deputy-Lieutenant of the County.

James Forbes followed, in the proprietorship of Seaton, the Lady Diana Middleton, and towards the end of last century he acquired the lands of Stoneywood soon after James Moir died, and he afterwards bought the lands of Gordon's Mills, Upper Cotton, and the lands of Auchmull. He died on the 7th August, 1829, aged 92 years.

Elizabeth Forbes, daughter and heir of James Forbes, was married in 1813 to General the Lord James Hay, second son of the seventh Marquis of Tweeddale. Lord James, who was joint-proprietor with his wife of the aforesaid lands, was engaged in the battles of Copenhagen, Vimiera, Busaco, Vittoria, Waterloo, and others, and received the war medal with eight clasps. He was born, 1788, and died at Spa on 18th August, 1862. Lady Hay died September, 1861, aged 78 years.

Lord James Hay was succeeded by his son, James Gordon Hay, who was born on the 15th October, 1815. He was married to Miss Mary C. Cox, on the 13th November, 1878, and died on 8th February, 1883, and was succeeded in the estates by his eldest son, James Gilbert Hay, a boy of little more than three years of age, who survived his father only a few months, and died on 30th July, 1883. He was succeeded by his brother, Malcolm Vivian Hay, then a child of only 2½ years of age, and now [1886] in his seventh year.

STONE QUARRIES.

Aberdeen, the "Granite City," has long been famed for its stone trade, and at this present time, the quarrying, dressing, and polishing of stones for monumental and building purposes forms one of the principal industries of Aberdeen and its neighbourhood.

We find that in the year 1604 a patent for the opening

of a stone quarry within the Freedom Lands of Aberdeen was granted to John Mason for a period of five years, to supply the inhabitants with stones for doors and windows.

There are, no doubt, the remains of some very old quarries about Hilton, Middlefield, and other places; but the industry was greatly increased towards the end of last century, when there arose a great demand for granite stones for paving the streets of London.

Towards the end of last century, the Messrs. Adams, eminent architects and contractors in London, commenced quarrying stones from the rocks on the sea coast at Torry; but the working was found to be too costly, and they entered into contracts with the masons of Aberdeen to supply them with stones suitable for their purpose. After this, new quarries were opened, and stones were supplied at a cheaper rate than the stones furnished from the sea coast.

Northfield and Auchmull presented a fine field for quarrying, and about this time the Dancing Cairns Quarries were opened by Messrs. Snell, Rennie, & May. John May, previous to his coming to Dancing Cairns, was engaged quarrying stones at the rocks of Grey-hope, at Torry. On these rocks the "Oscar" was wrecked—1st April, 1813. Quarries were also opened by Thomas Catto and by James Harper, mason. James Harper was on the 9th June, 1824, succeeded by Alexander Low, who, on the 16th February, 1825, added the leasehold of William Russell, quarrier. Alexander Low was the founder of the family of Kinloch of Park, Deeside. In 1831, a lease was granted of the quarry called Froghole, near the burn of Sclattie, formerly occupied by James Gunn, to James Small, mason, and William Reid, under the firm of James Small & Co., afterwards to a family of the name of Birnie. Messrs. John Gibb & Son had a lease of Dancing Cairns quarries, dated 19th April, 1843 (Upper and Lower). Messrs. A. & F. Manuelle, Messrs. Mowlem, Burt, & Co., and other firms on a smaller scale have also occupied quarries on the lands of Auchmull.

These various quarries, from an early date, furnished employment to a considerable population, and, together with the rising works at Woodside and Stoneywood, greatly enhanced the value of the property in the neighbourhood.

On the roadside at Auchmull stood a smithy, occupied by Alexander Cruickshank (Crookie), and a Mr. Emslie. Adjoining the smithy were the premises of Messrs. Lindsay and Gordon, cartwrights. Alexander Fyfe afterwards carried on the business for many years.

The following account of an accident at Dancing Cairns from *Aberdeen Journal*, 17th May, 1796, may be interesting :—

"On Monday last, as George Mellon, a quarrier, at the Dancing Cairns, near Auchmull, was charging a stone that he had bored, a spark exploded it while he was sitting on it, by which means his right leg was shattered to pieces and nearly carried off. The main artery was opened, and poured forth for more than two hours till he was brought to the Infirmary, with little symptoms of life; and though every attempt was made to recruit him with cordials and such sustenance as his stomach could receive, exhausted nature could not be restored, and he died on Wednesday evening.

"Doctor Livingstone thinks it his duty to caution quarriers if ever a similar unfortunate accident should happen (and in that business many such do), that when there is a great effusion of blood, eight or ten fold of linen rag hard bound up should be placed on the inside of the thigh, secured with a piece of linen, and being the readiest implements *two strong* garters should be twisted with a small roller of wood round the whole, and secured with a firm knot.

"Had such practice been thought of, a valuable life might have been saved."

We know that the name of the above was William Melvin and not George Mellon, as reported in the *Journal*.

John Booth, farmer, Auchmull, and George Booth, farmer, Northfield, with their father John Booth, who is in his 87 year, now represent a worthy and well-known family of the name of Booth, farmers on the estate of Auchmull for nearly 200 years.

On a small holding near the Mansion House of Auchmull, there lived a worthy couple of decided and genuine Christian character, James Hosie and Margaret Hill, his wife, who attended the ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Kidd, at Gilcomston Chapel of Ease, and most likely the ministrations of Dr. Kidd's predecessor, the Rev. James Gregory. We can easily suppose that it went beyond good, old Mrs. Hosie's fondest anticipations regarding the future career of her lively and inquisitive little grandson, who took delight in frequently visiting "granny" at Auchmull, that he would develop into Sir John Anderson, the donor of the Woodside Free Library.

On the lower part of the estate of Auchmull lies The Grove. This once beautiful place was formerly known as the "Minister's Woodie," by reason of its being the residence of the Rev. Dr. John Brown of Newhills, after he had ceded the manse to his successor, the Rev. George Allan.

Schools and Institutions.

THE Parish School, close by the old church of Newhills, was for a considerable period, so far as we know, the only regular school in the parish; but, as the population greatly increased about Stoneywood and Buxburn with the growing manufacturing industries, schools were afterwards opened at these places. About the beginning of the present century a school, a little beyond the mill of Sclattie, on the turnpike roadside, was taught by good old Rachel Copland. She never used a tawse or cane to check the idle or unruly pupils. Her custom was to place a wig on the head of any scholar guilty of neglect or misdemeanour; thus preferring to act upon the sense of shame rather than upon the fear of physical torture. "Rachel's" custom was to stay over the Sabbath in Aberdeen, and great was the joy of the scholars as the Inverurie coach made its appearance on the Monday mornings, when "Rachie" was met at some distance from the school, where she always received a most loyal greeting.

About the same time a school at the Blue-houses at Buxburn was taught successively by William Dawson, Isaac Marrion, and Dr. Ferguson.

As the outcome of a movement among the residents of the district, in 1826, the Stoneywood and Buxburn United School was built. A lease was obtained for 99 years of that triangular piece of ground on Bankhead, bounded by the Old Meldrum turnpike road on the north, the old Greenburn road on the south, and the road to the mill of Waterton on the west. This school was known as the "Reed" School, being roofed with red tiles. The

names of the Acting Committee were Robert Watson, James Reid, Peter Youngson, and Charles Smith.

Some time after this, a school was erected at Buxburn, called the Buxburn Subscription School, which was carried on for many years. About forty years ago a large school in connection with the Free Church, Buxburn, was built near the "Quaker's Brig." This bridge was so called from the proximity of the dwelling of a blacksmith of the name of Gracie, who was a member of the Society of Friends.

About the year 1864, the Messrs. Pirie erected a large and handsome school at their own expense, and under their own management; but all these schools were closed after the School Board planted their schools at Buxburn and Woodend.

OLD MILL REFORMATORY.

The Old Mill Reformatory was established in the year 1857, and is a large building, situated within the grounds belonging to the Institution, which was bequeathed by the late Dr. Watt. Its object is to reclaim boys convicted of crime. During the period of their detention they receive religious instruction, are taught the elementary branches of education, and are trained in such industrial departments as weaving, tailoring, shoe-making, and farm-work.

A COTTAGE HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS AT NEWHILLS

Was established in 1875 by Mrs. Smith, Manse, Newhills, for the reception of poor persons in weak health, or recovering from sickness of a non-infectious character, who are likely to be benefited by change of air and home comforts. Admission is obtained on the recommendation of some person of known respectability, accompanied by a medical certificate.

Patients have the benefit of a fortnight's residence, which is extended in suitable cases.

A new Cottage was opened in July, 1882, with accomodation for from 12 to 15 patients; and 74 persons have been admitted in course of last season. The Cottage is open from the beginning of May until late in November.

The Institution is wholly supported by voluntary contributions.

Mrs. Smith, The Manse, Newhills, the Secretary and Treasurer, continues to devote much time and care in furthering the usefulness of this philanthropic institution.

Kingswells.

THE history of this estate, which lies about five miles west of Aberdeen, is interesting, chiefly on account of its having been the residence and property of prominent and worthy men.

It would appear to have been the property of the town of Aberdeen from a very early date. About the end of the sixteenth century the Town Council feued the lands of Kingswells, with the mosses, muirs, marshes, &c., to John Arthur, and on his death, Robert Arthur, a burgess of Aberdeen, made up a title to them as his eldest son, on the 20th January, 1595, and sold them to Alexander Jaffray, also a burgess of Aberdeen, on the 2nd May, 1597.

On the 2nd September, 1617, Alexander Jaffray (II.) conveyed the property to his eldest son, Alexander, but reserving his own life-rent.

On the 15th April, 1645, Alexander Jaffray (III.) was served heir to his father, and on the 27th January, 1674, Andrew Jaffray was served heir to Alexander Jaffray (III.) Andrew Jaffray, on 8th September, 1697, conveyed the lands to his eldest son, Alexander Jaffray (IV.), who was infeft in June, 1701.

On the 19th June, 1724, Alexander Jaffray (IV.), with consent of Alexander Jaffray, his eldest son, and Christian Barclay, his wife, disponed the lands to Robert Jaffray, their second son, and he was infeft in the lands on 19th February, 1741. Subsequently this Robert Jaffray, who was a merchant in Dublin, completed his title on 9th March, 1772.

On the 9th January, 1775, Alexander Jaffray (V.), who also was a merchant in Dublin, made up a title to the lands, as heir to his father, Robert Jaffray. This last Alexander Jaffray disponed the lands in favour of Alexander Jaffray (VI.), son of Alexander Jaffray, his cousin, merchant in Dublin, and his heirs male; whom failing, Richard Jaffray, brother of Alexander Jaffray (VI.), and the heirs male of his body.

On the 16th December, 1836, Richard Jaffray made up a title to the lands, and on the 4th December, 1846, disponed them to his only child, Miss Isabella Sarah Jaffray, and in the month of August, 1854, Richard Jaffray and his daughter sold the lands to Francis (now LL.D.) Edmond, advocate in Aberdeen, the present proprietor.

The history of the Jaffray family is exceedingly interesting, not only as connected with the early struggles of Quakerism in the north of Scotland, but also with municipal and national affairs, and it is not without reluctance that we restrict our notice to only a few particulars.

The first Alexander Jaffray was married to Christian Burnett, daughter of the then proprietor of Leys, by whom he had a son, Alexander Jaffray (II.), who was a respectable merchant in Aberdeen, and several times filled the office of Provost, and represented the Burgh in the Scottish Parliament, and was one of those who signed the Covenant in 1638. He married Magdalene Erskine, daughter of Erskine of Pittodrie, by whom he had a son, Alexander Jaffray, the author of the well-known "Diary."

In his time the Diarist filled the offices of Provost, Member of Parliament for the Burgh of Aberdeen, and Director of Chancellry of Scotland. He was born in 1614; and in the year 1632, when only eighteen years of age, he married Jane Dun, by whom he had a son, Alexander, and other nine children, all of whom he outlived. Jane Dun, who pre-deceased her husband, was a niece of Dr. Patrick Dun, Principal of Marischal College. In the year 1647 Alexander Jaffray married (second) Sarah Cant, by whom

he had five sons and three daughters, who all died early, except Andrew, who was born in 1650. Sarah Cant died in 1673. She was a daughter of the well-known Andrew Cant, one of the ministers of Aberdeen.

Andrew Jaffray, eldest son of the Diarist, married Christian, daughter of Baillie Alexander Skene, of the family of Skene of Skene, and had Lilias, Margaret, Alexander, Christian, Andrew, Sarah, John, Patience, James and Ann. He died in 1726. His son, Alexander, married Christian Barclay, daughter of Robert Barclay of Ury, the author of "Barclay's Apology."

In continuation of the genealogy of the Jaffrays, we here insert the following two documents (never before printed, so far as we know), the one written by Alexander Jaffray, grandson to the Diarist, and the other, which is after the Quaker style, written by Abell Strettell, father-in-law to Robert Jaffray, great-grandson to the Diarist :—

"ALEXANDER JAFFRAY my grandfather was born att Aberdeen in July Anno	1614
He married Sarah Cant the 4th of May	1647
He died at Kingswells 7th July	1673
ANDREW JAFFRAY my father was born att Aberdeen the 8th of August	1650
He married Christian Skeen	1673
I ALEXANDER JAFFRAY his eldest son was born att Kingswells the 16th day of October	1677
Married Christian Barclay att Springhall ye 23rd April	1700
ALEXANDER our eldest son born att Kingswells 11th August	1701
ROBERT born at Kingswells ye 4th June	1703
MOLLINA our daughter born 6th of June	1704
ANDREW born 26th March	1706
DAVID born 3rd June Died May 1728	1708
GILBERT born 31st January.	1709/10
JOHN born 16th Aprill	1711

JAMES born att Urie 4th July Died 29 Novr 1735 1713
JOSHUA born att Kingswells 16th October 1715
THOMAS born att Kingswells 2d October 1717

The above is a
" Genealogy of
the
Jaffrays
Copied by my father
from a paper of
his father's
Alexr Jaffray."

"ALEXANDER son of Robert Jaffray and Abigail his wife was born the second day of October in ye year 1734 being the fourth day of ye week at three of ye clock in ye afternoon.

"LYDIA daughter of ye above named was born the twenty-fourth day of September 1735 being ye fourth day of ye week at three quarters after two in the morning.

"ABELL son of ye above named was born the eighteenth day of September 1736 being the seventh day of ye week at thirty four minutes past two in ye morning.

"ROBERT son of ye above named was born the twelfth day of May 1738 being the sixth day of the week at half an hour after seven in the morning.

"CHRISTIAN daughter of ye above named was born on the 5th day of June 1739 about one o'clock in the morning being the third day of ye week.

"KATHERINE daughter of ye above named was born on the 3rd of September 1740 about one o'clock in the morning being the fourth day of ye week.

"JONATHAN son of ye above named was born the 4th day of August 1742 about ¼ before nine in the evening being the fourth day of ye week.

"ABIGAIL daughter of ye above named was born the 13th day of May 1747 being the 4th day of ye week at ¼ past five in the morning.

"ROBERT Jaffray was married to Abigial Strettell the daughter of Abell Strettell at the meeting house in Meath Street the fourth day of December in ye year 1733.

"ABELL dyed ye eighth day of November 1738 being fourth day of ye week and was buried at ye buriall Place near Stephen's Green ye 9th day of ye same.

"ROBERT dyed the 22d day of March 1738/9 being the fifth day of ye week and was buried at ye buriall Place near Stephen's Green ye 24th.

"JONATHAN died the 15th day of June 1745 being ye 7th day of ye week and was buried ye 17th of ye same at Stephen's Green burial Place.

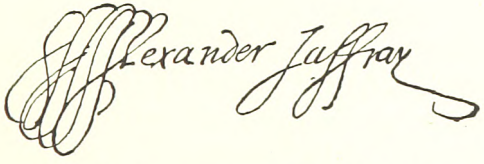
"Abell Strettell
his Booke
2mo 11th
1695."

The foregoing is copied from a manuscript.

The first three Alexander Jaffrays mentioned had a civic connection with Aberdeen, but there is always some confusion or doubt in the accounts given by writers when referring to them.

From information kindly supplied by Mr. Alexander M. Munro, City Chamberlain's office, we find that there were three Alexander Jaffrays who had a civic connection, and, taking them in their order, they are identified by their signatures, facsimiles of which are here reproduced.

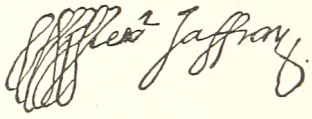
ALEXANDER JAFFRAY I.



He was a Baillie in 1594, 1596, 1598, 1602, 1606, 1608, 1610, and 1612.

He was likewise a Baillie in 1623 and 1624, but his

signature changes a little as will be seen from the tracing; but there is little doubt that they are the signatures of the same man.

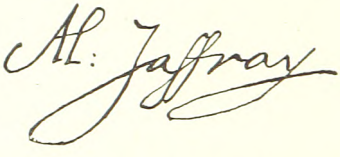


From a manuscript list of burials in the Town House we find that on 24th December, 1627, Alexander Jaffray, "lait" Baillie was "bureit."

ALEXANDER JAFFRAY II.

He was Baillie in 1625, '27, '29, and '33, and Provost in 1636, '38, and 1641; and from the manuscript above mentoned we find that on the 12th January, 1645, Alexander Jaffray "lait" Provost was "bureit."

ALEXANDER JAFFRAY III.



He is designed of Kingswells, and was Baillie in 1640, '42, '47, and 1648, and Provost in 1649, and 1651. He died 1673.

The following is taken from the preface to Gordon's "Scots Affairs," and refers to the *first* Provost Jaffray:—

"But this (Robert Johnston's) election was annulled *January* 26, 1636, by the Privy Council, who, out of the

List sent by the Council of *Aberdeen*, nominated Mr. *Alexander Jaffray*, Provost, whom many despised, says *Spalding*, because he was not of the Old blood of the Town, but a Baker's Grandson ; and therefore a baken Py was several times placed in the Provost's Desk, before his coming in to Sermon ; but he was wise enough to take no notice of it. His Prudence appeared afterwards in more signal instances, at a very critical time ; for on June 10, 1639, after the Civil War was begun, the whole Town convened being enquired by Provost *Johnston*, if they had any charge to give in against Mr. *Alexander Jaffray*, their present Provost, or any Disloyalty or Miscarriage committed by him in his office, to the hindering of the King's Service or to the Prejudice of the Town ; they all in one voice answered they had none : but on the contrary gave him their approbation and applause, that he had discharged and acquitted himself, in his said Office, most dutifully and honestly, as a loyal and good Subject to the King, and as a most careful and painful Magistrate for the well and good of the Town."

There is an entry in an old cess book, dated 1612, "Alexander Jaffray of Kingswells Sheriff Depute." This would be the first Alexander Jaffray of Kingswells, whose father, it seems, had been a Baker.

Alexander Jaffray (III.) was sent to the Grammar School in his ninth year, where he made little progress, and afterwards spent some time in a seminary at Banchory. In 1631 he entered the Logic class in the University of Aberdeen, under Hugh Gordon and Dr. Dun. After being one year at College, and when only 18 years of age, he married a niece of Dr. Dun, apparently at the suggestion of his parents. He thus writes regarding this affair in his "Diary":—"So brutish and senseless was I that I never minded nor sought God in the matter, but went on in blindness as they directed me, not ever considering the Lord's mind in it, nor the qualities of the person with whom I was to join. And yet such was the goodness of my God unto

me that in this engagement He directed me well, whereas He might have made the circumstance a cross and a curse to me; but it pleased Him to bless it, giving me not only contentment of a meek and quiet yoke-fellow, who all the time of our being together, was very comfortable and pleasing to me; *even this* is matter of very great mercy, for which I ought to praise God. There was also more in it; for I trust I have good grounds to say, that the seeds of grace, in good measure, were begun to be sown in her heart, as her sober and christian carriage during her life witnessed."

He spent some time after his marriage in Edinburgh, where he became intimate with his relative Robert Burnet, the father of the celebrated Bishop Burnet. Jaffray learned some good things here, not only respecting legal matters, but some things respecting holiness and charity. In 1633 he attended the coronation of Charles I. at Edinburgh, and in company with George Jamesone, the painter, he made a journey to London, and he afterwards spent fifteen months in two journeys to France. When in Paris he nearly lost his life through having received a wound in the back from a soldier.

Up till 1636, he lived with his father, but at Whitsunday of that year he took up house for himself. At this period of his life he says he was "slow in seeking God and unclose in his walk with Him." Reflecting on this afterwards, he says, "The day in which God is not more than once sought by prayer is not well spent."

"In 1644, it pleased the Lord to remove my wife by death; which was hastened, much to my grief, by the Laird of Haddo taking me prisoner out of my own house. Some time before that I committed a servant of his to prison for a riot done in Aberdeen. Thereafter he pursued me near to Kintore for my life, and after some strokes had passed between us he left me wounded in the head, and my brother John in the arm, for no other cause than is mentioned above." Jaffray's Diary, p. 47.

The dwellings of the Jaffrays having been spoiled in the sack of Aberdeen by Montrose, Jaffray and his father lived sometime in the house of their cousin, Alexander Burnet, where the elder Jaffray died, 10th January, 1645.

Although the elder Jaffray had much to do with ecclesiastical affairs he does not appear to have been much influenced by a sense of religion till towards the close of his life. Jaffray (the diarist) remarks, "He was much reformed and withdrawn from company-keeping and taverns before his death, and I trust he found mercy and died in favour with God and men."

"In the year 1649 I, being then a member of Parliament for the town of Aberdeen, was sent unto Holland with the Earl of Cassillas, Lord Brodie, and Lord Libertone, for to treat with and bring home our young King [Charles II]. I shall spare to mention many things, only I must observe this, that having gone there in the simplicity of our hearts, minding what we conceived to be duty, it pleased the Lord to bring us safely off without any snare or entanglement. But being again sent by Parliament, in the year 1650, for that same business, we did sinfully both entangle and engage ourselves, and that poor young Prince to whom we were sent; making him sign and swear a Covenant which we knew, from clear and demonstrable reasons, that he hated at his heart. Yet, finding that upon these terms only he could be admitted to rule over us—all other means having failed him—he sinfully complied with what *we* most sinfully pressed upon him: where I must confess, to my apprehension, *our* sin was more than *his*." So clear were his convictions upon this point "that," says he, "I spoke to the King himself, desiring him not to subscribe the Covenant, if in his conscience he was not satisfied.

"The King being come home, we were not well landed when England was on our border with an Army to succour themselves against our invading them. It is not my purpose to speak to that business, &c., but the thing I aim

at is—to remember the just severity and yet merciful visitation of my blessed Lord, who by a very sad blow at that battle of Dunbar, the 3rd day of September, 1650, brought me to the very gates of death ;—my horse being shot under me, and I having received two wounds in my head, one in my right hand and another in my back. So good was the Lord to me—that albeit for my manifold gultinesses and particularly for my accession to and compliance in that matter of our acting about our King, he might have left me there, and for ever to his wrath in hell ; yet—glory to his name !—*that* guiltiness was blotted out, &c. But, thereby I was called to remember my folly, and to look back and examine my ways since my infancy." Jaffray's Diary, pp. 54 and 57.

Jaffray's horse lay upon him in the field, and he received another wound in the back. He was by the kindness of a gentleman, carried off the field, and afterwards brought to Dunbar by Lord General Cromwell, where he was most civilly and courteously used beyond what was due to his rank. Jaffray's brother, Thomas, was killed, and also his servant, James Bera.

During his imprisonment he had frequent opportunities of conference with the Lord General Cromwell, and Doctor Owen, and others.

Here he got some clear evidence of the sinful mistake of the good men of the nation about the mind of God as to the exercise of the magistrates' power in the matters of religion. " The mistake and ignorance of the mind of God in this matter—what evils hath it occasioned ? fearful scandals and blasphemies on the one hand, and cruel persecution and bitterness among brethren on the other."

Jaffray began to reconsider the questions of Church and State connection and forms of Church government. As some one remarks, he came to see that the ways of God's worship are not at all intrusted to human power, and that swords, even in the hands of saints, are no part of the Armoury of Truth.

Referring to the framers of the National Covenant, Jaffray says "These good men—deeming that they had attained to the full perfection of what was in the Holy Scriptures, about the government of God's house, because they were as far on as Geneva—yea, in some things beyond her—and so very far beyond England, who were still kept under that antichristian form of Prelacy—concluded, there was no better way for them to keep what they had attained from being again brought back to Popery (or at least to Prelacy which they so much and justly abhorred) than by a solemn *vow and covenant*, to engage themselves and their posterity for ever to maintain that which they had now attained, conceiving it to be the *only* way of Jesus Christ."

After Cromwell had dissolved the Rump or Long Parliament on April 20th, 1653, he immediately summoned a new Parliament, which consisted of 140 members, of whom 138 assembled on 4th July. In reference to this Parliament, sometimes called "Barebones," Cromwell said that he had not called one person in whom he had not this good hope, "that there was faith in Jesus Christ, and love unto all his saints and people"; but Cromwell found it necessary to dissolve this Parliament on the 12th December the same year, and sent Colonel White to dismiss the members. Provost Jaffray at first refused to leave. He says in his Diary—"When the Parliament was broken up I not being satisfied with the reason thereof, was one of 30 or 31 that staid in the House"; but he soon had to yield to superior force.

Thomas Carlyle, in his "Life of Cromwell," gives in his own pithy way a *resumé* of the career of Jaffray, which we quote:—

"Alexander Jaffray, as we know already, is Provost of Aberdeen; a leading man for the Covenant from of old; and generally the Member for his Burgh in the Scotch Parliaments for these years. In particular he sits as Commissioner for Aberdeen in the Parliament that met on 4th January, 1649, under which this disastrous Quarrel with

the English began. He was famed afterwards (infamous it then meant) as amongst the Scotch Quakers; he with Barclay of Urie and other lesser fallen stars. Personal intercourse with Cromwell, the Sectary and Blasphemer, had much altered the notions of Mr. Alexander Jaffray. Baillie informed us, three months ago, he and Carstairs, then prisoners on parole were sent Westward by Cromwell to agent the remonstrance to guide towards some good issue the Ker-and-Strachan negotiation, which, alas! could only be guided headlong into the ditches at Hamilton before daybreak, as we saw! Jaffray sat afterwards in the Little Parliament; was an official person in Scotland, and one of Cromwell's leading men there."

Jaffray thought more favourably of the Independent form of Church government than of the Prelatic or Presbyterian forms. The diary breaks off about the middle of the year 1661, and about that time Jaffray appears to have belonged to no distinct Christian society. The frame and breathing of his spirit seems constantly to have sent forth this petition, "*That which I see not teach Thou me.*" He joined the Society of Friends about the beginning of 1663, and continued an active member of the Society, for which he suffered much persecution. He was summoned before Archbishop Sharp, examined, and sentenced to confine himself to his own house at Kingswells. In 1668, he lay speechless of quinsy. Bishop Scougal, of Aberdeen, discovered that he had forfeited his penalty by allowing religious meetings in his house. Jaffray would recognise no such forfeiture, and was dragged to the jail in Banff in such a state of debility that three days were consumed in the journey. After nine months' imprisonment, during which, from the precarious state of his health, his life was in danger, the designs of the clergy were baffled by the mercy of a Privy Council of Charles II., and Jaffray was released without paying the penalty.

Jaffray closed his remarkable career on the 7th day of May, 1673, at the age of 59 years. During his illness,

which lasted twelve days, he gave forth, in the presence of many friends and others, very substantial attestation to that most excellent dispensation of Gospel light and truth, unto which of late years he had been more fully brought, and in defence of which he had suffered. Being overcome in spirit, he occasionally said "Now, Lord, let thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have spiritually seen, my heart hath felt and shall for ever feel, thy salvation." A little before his breath ceased, he declared he had been with his God and had seen deep things, and very shortly after he gently passed away. The following minute is recorded by the monthly meeting of Friends in Aberdeen :—

"It pleased the Lord to remove out of the body our dear and precious friend, Alexander Jaffray, at his own house at Kingswells, the 7th of the 5th month, 1673, at one in the morning ; who was buried there upon the 8th day. He was a sincere, upright-hearted man all his time, and one that had been a seeker of the Lord from his youth up, and had much of the life of Jesus and spirit of holiness attending his heart all along, as his conversation witnessed ; and died with blessed and living testimonies to the honour of truth, before many professors and profane who came to see him."

Mr. Robert King, author of "The Covenanters of the North," thus remarks on Jaffray's almost forgotten burial place :—

"The persecution, which in all likelihood was the cause of this selection of a place of sepulture for himself, his family, and neighbours, has thus furnished the means of identifying his grave, thereby affording the lovers of freedom and true greatness an opportunity of kindling their aspirations over the ashes of a truly great man."

Dr. Francis Edmond, the present proprietor has, with a kind consideration, planted a row of trees around this sacred spot, which measures only about fifty square yards.

Jaffray has, fortunately, left a record of a considerable portion of his eventful life, more especially of his spiritual experiences; and it is matter of sincere regret that this record breaks off about eleven years previous to his death, during which period he had no doubt continued his Diary. He seems to have been of the same opinion as John Foster regarding the profitableness of writing one's own memoirs. The manner of finding the manuscript of the Diary reminds one of the discovery of the letters of Boswell, Dr. Johnson's friend, which had been sold by a hawker to a shopkeeper in Boulogne (who used them for rolling up small articles), and were by chance rescued, and now form a volume of 400 pages.

In the autumn of 1826 John Barclay visited his cousin at Ury House, near Stonehaven, well known as the residence of Robert Barclay, the Apologist. While searching among some manuscripts, to all appearance much neglected, he came upon the earlier portion of the Diary lying in a corner of the Apologist's study, and in another place he found "A Brief Historical Account of the Rise, Progress, and Persecutions of the People called Quakers in the North of Scotland." The former paper was much discoloured. Detached fragments were found leaf after leaf, very tattered, among heaps of waste paper in a loft of a farm-house, not far from the mansion.

As the Diary itself indicates, it was written for the benefit of his children as well as for his own spiritual profit. These papers had probably found their way to Ury by some of the Jaffrays consigning them to some of the Barclays, with a view to their publication; and, perhaps on account of some more pressing engagements, had been laid aside at the time, and afterwards neglected.

The records of the monthly meeting of Friends at Aberdeen show that the author of the Diary himself, only a year before his own decease, was the first to set his hand to the work of preparing that ancient document found, "A Brief Historical Account, etc.," already referred to, and that

after that event his son Andrew became a chief contributor, together with "the Apologist," and others.

On account of the close relationship and warm friendship which existed between the Jaffray and Barclay families we may here state that Colonel David Barclay, the father of Robert Barclay the Apologist, was born in 1610 at Kirktownhill, the seat of the Barclays for 500 years. He married Catherine Gordon, daughter of Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, second son of the Earl of Sutherland, who was second cousin to James VI. of Scotland.

Colonel David Barclay purchased the estate of Urie from Earl Marischal about 1650. He was twice elected Member of Parliament for the shires of Angus and Mearns. He resided at Edinburgh at the time of his "convincement" to Quakerism in 1666. In that year he sent his son Robert to reside on his estate of Urie, where the Barclay family continued until not many years ago. Colonel David retired from public life when between 50 and 60 years of age, and became a most devoted and prominent member of the Society of Friends, among whom he was greatly beloved and honoured.

He passed his last few years at Urie, enjoying the tranquillity of a country life, after many years hardship and trial. In the 76th year of his age, upon the 12th October, 1686, he "fell asleep like a lamb in remarkable quietness and calmness." His death-bed utterances are very beautiful.

Alexander Skene, the father-in-law of Andrew Jaffray, was a merchant in Aberdeen and laird of Newtyle, and from 1649 to 1671 held office in the Town Council as Treasurer, Dean of Guild, and Baillie, respectively, besides being a leading man in the Church Courts. Mr. Skene was the author of the first and now rare history of Aberdeen—"A Succint Survey of the famous City of Aberdeen. Printed by John Forbes, 1685."

Among the earliest converts to the new doctrine of the Quakers was Lilias Gillespie or Skene, who was married to Mr. Skene about 1650, and held in great estimation for

worth of character and high religious attainments. Her first step to Quakerism was not taken until the 4th July, 1666, when the Council appointed the first day of August for celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It was then she wrote—"A song of praise when the Lord revealed to me His mynd that I should not joyne in the communion at Aberdeen, 1666."

She was soon after joined by her husband. Shortly after this the Quakers endured great persecution, which only stimulated their strong religious feeling.

Lilias Skene wrote many poetical pieces on this persecution. We quote the following :—

"SOME THINGES CONCERNING FREINDES IN PRISON WHICH CAME BEFORE ME IN THE TYME OF MY SICKNESS, TO BE DELYVERED TO THEM :—

"My freindes stand fast lett none affrayed be,
And in this winnowing season faint not yee,
But feel yourselves so fixed on the Rock,
That present sufferings may not thence you knock.
O! let your love, your patience, and your hope
Outlive a prison, yea, a whip or rope :
Outlive the malice, and outlive the pryde
Off truth's opposers, all on every syde.
For sure the Lord will trouble them at lenthe,
Who still to trouble you employ their strenthe.
As Pharoh's might and host shall by the Lord
Be overthrowne and left upon record,
That ages yett to come may see His hand,
And heare and feare to break His just command.
But ere His glorious name shall thus appeare,
Freindes tryalls may encrease more closse and neare.
Freindes mark it, for it opens in the light,
Delyverance comes not by man's help or might.
The tryalls come to difference and to prove,
What wisdom's from below, what from above.
The zeall, the meakness and humilitie,
The love and lyffe, the faith and constancie,

His graces all he'l have in exercise,
That which he calleth up may sacrifice,
For some who think they stand, may flee the feild,
And to the adversary their weapons yield.
The selfe denyall and the resignation,
Best known is through suitable temptation ;
Some may have constancie that wanteth love,
The manly pairt may flishing disaprove.
Yett something still remains that prves him nought,
When Gideon's armies to the watters brought.
The meeke and lowly living ones are they,
Who shall be overcomers in this day,
And take the Kingdome and obtaine the Crowne,
Of Glory, victorie, and great renowne.
The living in Jerusalem, I say,
Shall sound the trumpet and shall take the prey,
So still the Lord your further service have,
You and your present work with him I leave,
Who doth his vineyard water momently,
And watcheth over it continuallie.

The 5th of the 10th mo. 1677."

Her husband was a man of great public spirit, who, in his time endured imprisonment and trials. He died full of years and honours in 1693, and was buried at Kingswells, the seat of his son-in-law, Andrew Jaffray.

Lilias, his wife, outlived him nearly four years. She wrote a piece, dated 11th month, 1693, the time of her husband's death. While returning thanks for help in a needful hour, she mourns, " But oh, my sweet is gone "—a fine expression, full of meaning and tender feeling.

Her death is recorded by the Society of Friends in the following terms:—"It pleased the Lord our God to bring to the sweet harbour of His everlasting rest, a long tossed vessel upon the wave of many afflictions—Lilias Gillespie or Skene, 21st of the 4th month, 1697."

She was buried beside her husband at Kingswells.

Besides the little burying-ground at Kingswells already referred to, which must be interesting, there is on the grounds a wonderful "consumption" dyke, formed out of stones taken out of the ground when trenching; it is 33 feet broad, upwards of 6 feet high, and about 500 yards long, with a paved footpath in the middle.

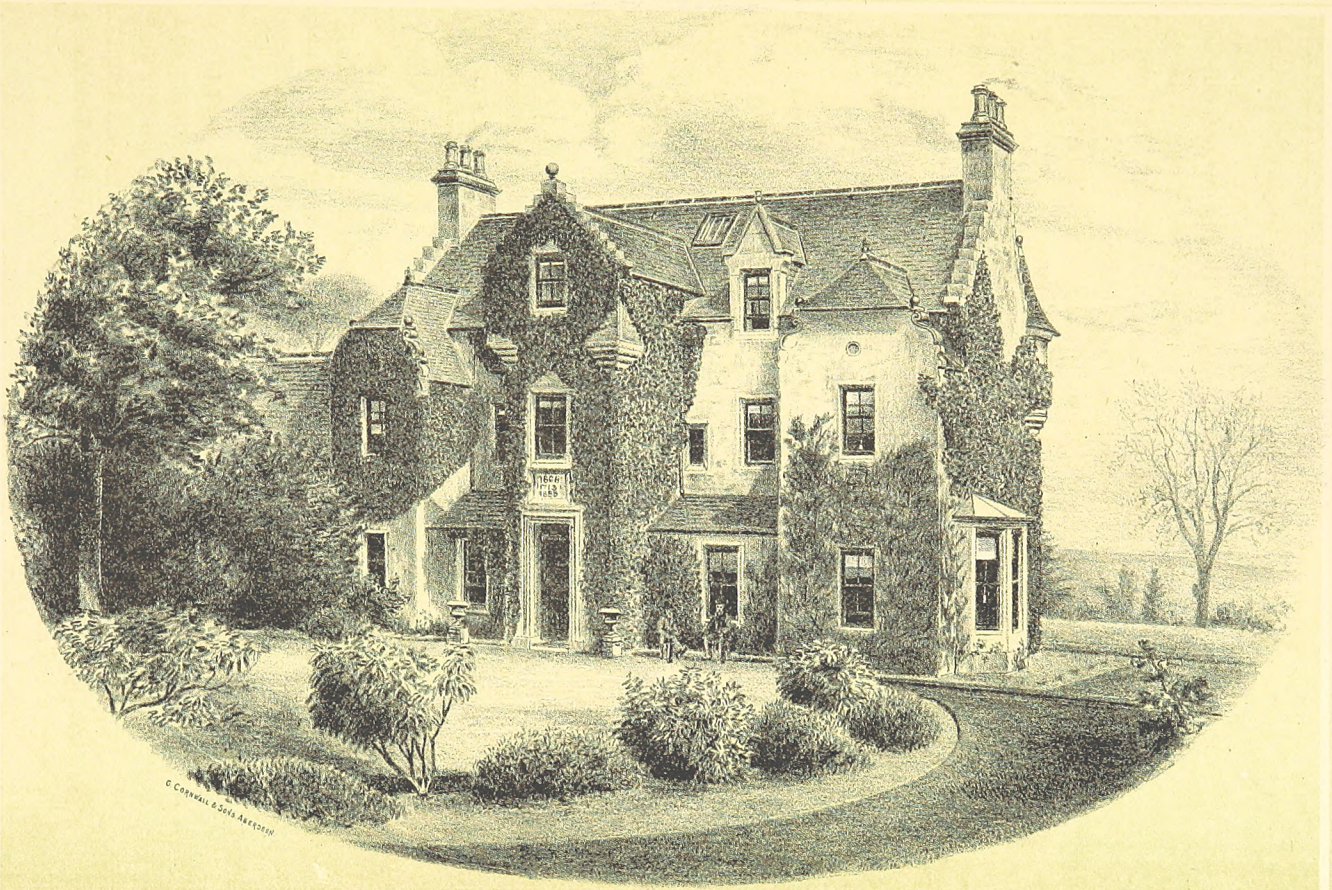
Near the Mansion House is a holly tree, the trunk of which is 22 in. diameter. Mr. Gladstone, the present Prime Minister, whose knowledge of trees is considerable, has stated "that he has never seen a holly of more than 18 in. diameter."

The following is from a descriptive piece written by a visitor at Kingswells in 1876. After describing some very old trees, he says:—

> "And these are they that have been witnesses
> Of all such culture as these lands have had
> Since Jaffray, once possessor, held his seat
> In Cromwell's Parliament, until the time
> When, some score years ago, it was their lot
> To fall into the hands of him who now
> Is owner, and, from out their savagery,
> By skill and will, has made a paradise."

Francis Edmond, the present proprietor of Kingswells, was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in the year 1829, and has for many years successfully conducted a most extensive legal practice. He has long been widely known as a painstaking and clear-headed man of business, and is distinguished for his reliable and decided integrity and great force of character. In 1881 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the Senatus of the University of Aberdeen.

Dr. Edmond has all through his long life been a princely contributor of his means, skill, and time, to the support and well-being of the various benevolent and other institutions in Aberdeen, specially the Royal Infirmary and the Hospital for Relief of Persons labouring under Incurable Diseases;



KINGSWELLS HOUSE.

BRITISH
16 JY 86
MUSEUM

nor is his liberality restricted to public institutions, but finds its way through many channels to other not less deserving objects of a private nature.

Previous to the year 1843, Dr. Edmond was an active elder in the West Church, Aberdeen; but at the Disruption, along with his minister, the late Rev. Dr. Davidson, he left, and became a prominent office-bearer of the Free West Church, and was the guiding spirit in the erection of the three Free Churches in Belmont Street. He also took his full share in building and partially endowing the Aberdeen Free Church College, and was the largest contributor towards the erection of the new Free West Church in Union Street, opened on the 14th February, 1869.

Dr. Edmond was the chief promoter of the Free Church erected at Kingswells; he also built at his own expense a neat Mission Church at Lower Denburn, which, after some years, had to be removed to make way for the new railway station in Guild Street.

A record of Dr. Edmond's life and work, which would fill a volume itself, is not here attempted. The prestige of Kingswells—that historical portion of Newhills—has not in any degree been diminished under its present owner. The character of the proprietorship has been fully sustained, and the estate greatly beautified and considerably enhanced in value. It is one of the most interesting places in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen.

Artists.

THE references to the eminent and worthy sons of Woodside and Newhills would not be complete were we to omit the names of those natives who have been more or less endowed with a genius for using the brush and palette. From among these we select three of the more prominent.

James Giles, R.S.A., the son of a pattern block-maker for calico printing at Woodside Works, was born in January, 1801, and gave early promise of eminence as an artist. In his early years he visited France and Italy, and spent a considerable time in copying and studying the works of Titian and other great masters. Mr. Giles excelled as a landscape, animal, and portrait painter ; his deer and dogs were equalled by none, except, perhaps, by those of his friend Landseer. There is a care and refinement about his pictures which will always render them attractive and pleasant to look upon. He was a constant exhibitor at the Royal Scottish Academy, where his pictures always commanded good places. Mr. Giles was one of thirty-five artists who, in the year 1838, obtained a Charter of Incorporation, and were constituted the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. Mr. Giles was a favourite guest of the Premier Earl of Aberdeen at Haddo House, where he met many of the most eminent men of his time. His taste for landscape gardening was of so high an order that the Earl induced him to map out his pleasure grounds, deer parks, lakes, &c.; and it was upon Mr. Giles' recommendation, given through the Earl of Aberdeen, that the Queen, in 1847, acquired Balmoral for a Royal residence. He painted a number of pictures for Her Majesty,

and he is said to have declined the honour of knighthood more than once. Mr. Giles was a man of considerable intellectual attainments, had read a great deal, remembered what he read, and could express himself well and fluently. He was a keen Liberal, and something of a poet. He died 6th October, 1870, in his seventieth year.

John Mitchell comes of a family of artists. His father, James Mitchell, who originally hailed from Peterhead, was a turner and millwright at Grandholm Works, from whence, after a long day's work, he used to travel to Aberdeen in order to attend the painting classes of Mr. Giles. Some of his paintings are still admired by competent judges. His uncle, John Mitchell, was an artist by profession, having studied along with the famous colourist, John Phillip, R.A., under Mr. James Forbes, a popular artist in Aberdeen some forty years ago. Mr. Mitchell retains interesting reminiscences of all three artists, and under his uncle and Mr. P. C. Auld he received his first instructions in drawing. He pursued his artistic career as a draftsman in the establishment of Messrs. Keith & Gibb, Aberdeen. Whilst there, he executed many of the plates for the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," sketched with so much care by Mr. Andrew Gibb, F.S.A., Scot. After a time Mr. Mitchell betook himself to teaching drawing and painting, occasionally producing a landscape in oil or water colour, which invariably found ready and appreciative purchasers. Mr. Mitchell studied some time under Professor Legros, at the Slade School, University College, London. For several years he has devoted himself exclusively to the study and practice of his art. His works are instinct with knowledge and careful attention to details, and his portraits are justly admired. He has been a constant exhibitor in the Royal Scottish Academy, and occasionally in the Royal Academy, London. The beautiful lithographic drawing in this volume, representing St. Machar Cathedral, which is the most venerable and leading feature in the parish, is evidence of Mr. Mitchell's fine artistic skill.

The career of George Russell Gowans has not been dissimilar from that of Mr. Mitchell, and, though a somewhat younger man, he was contemporary with him in the same establishment in early life, and also with George Reid, R.S.A., the eminent portrait painter, who is not, however, a native of Woodside. After pursuing his business for some years in London, where his eye was familiarised with all that is best in art, Mr. Gowans returned to Aberdeen, where —the artizan merged in the artist—he devoted himself entirely to the duties of teaching and of painting. Mr. Gowans afterwards studied in London, and also at the Académie Julian, Paris, and for a number of years he has exhibited in the Royal Scottish Academy, and other public exhibitions in London and elsewhere. Mr. Gowans is a modest, conscientious artist, whose *forte* perhaps lies in producing a certain class of small, characteristic but not mannered autumn scenes and harvest fields. These gems are much prized by connoisseurs. The lithographic portrait of Sir John Anderson in this volume is an excellent specimen of the handiwork of Mr. Gowans.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Page 11.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE OF BURGESSES AT ABERDEEN TO ALL THE BURGHS IN SCOTLAND WHO HAVE DECLARED FOR REFORM.

In Committee, Aberdeen, *August* 27, 1784.

Gentlemen,—The very improvident manner in which our public funds have been managed for a considerable time past, and the very wretched state of the police of this great town, have determined the Burgesses to avail themselves of the privileges they are at present in possession of to look a little into the situation of their own affairs.

With very ample funds, and from a variety of circumstances and increasing revenue, it is exceedingly alarming that the debts of this community have swelled to the extent of many thousand pounds.

If matters are permitted to continue in the present course of management, additional heavy taxes must be levied for instant supply, and the property of the Burgesses must in the end be affected for the deficiencies.

It evidently appears from the ancient records of every burgh, and from those of Aberdeen in particular, that head courts were frequent and occasional through the course of the year, as well as the stated annual one at Michaelmas, which has now, by a very exceptionable practice, swallowed up all the others. In these, every circumstance respecting the Public Police Revenue and Disbursements, was examined, approved of or rejected by the Burgesses in full assembly, and it merits particular remark that, while the arbitrary and absurd Act of 1469 deprived the Burgesses of the privilege of electing the Magistrates and Council, yet have they been permitted to possess this salutary and equitable right even unto the present day.

Indeed this privilege is founded upon the principles which form the constitution of every burgh in its original institution, for the endowments of all burghs are in favour of the "*Magistrates, Council, and Community.*"

Such are the expressions uniformly used in every Royal Charter; but Magistrates and Councillors, the first branch of these little republics, have in latter times acted as if they only represented

themselves, and had no relative connection with the people. The practice of attending head courts has from different circumstances grown almost totally into disuse. This is the more to be regretted, as these constitutional assemblies were unquestionably intended as a check and control on the Magistrates and Councillors in the administration of the Public Revenue and Police. The Burgesses are regularly cited once in the year to examine and pass the public accounts, and by an especial law are permitted to investigate them and form objections to improper expenditure during 15 days previous to the Michaelmas Head Court, but to summon them to *examine and pass* accounts which they had no right to control, would be to add insult to injury, and involve the grossest contradictions. The establishment of Committees in the different towns has given a connection and confidence to the Burgesses which did not exist before, and the present opportunity bids fair for the re-establishment in its full extent of a practice which must be attended with consequences the most beneficial, and in a high degree calculated to promote the progressive improvement both of the Funds and Police of every burgh in Scotland.

This is a matter most earnestly to be desired, for that right of a community which ceases to be exercised is to it no longer a privilege.

The Committee here have appointed a Sub-Committee of their number to prepare and digest certain matters to come in the form of resolutions before the next Michaelmas Head Court, and to which the Burgesses will give a steady and firm support.

These resolutions, after proper investigation, will probably proceed on the report of the Sub-Committee, to be brought under the view of the public, in which past abuses and their apparent remedies will be particularly specified.

Were a measure of this sort to be adopted by the Committees in every burgh, it would afford ample proof of the active zeal of these respectable bodies by thus co-operating with their constituents in a simple but very effective means for promoting the unequivocal interests of the community.

We, therefore, beg leave earnestly to recommend to the consideration of the Committee at ————, as a step which cannot fail to meet with universal approbation, a very extraordinary resolution of the Convention of Burghs, in July last, to oppose the intended reform in the different towns, however qualified, which very evidently shows the determined conduct of these veteran leaders of a corrupt system to thwart the reasonable wishes of the people, and that from the very inferior consideration of continuing to themselves and their adherents a monopoly in office, while the interests of the Burgesses are trampled on and disregarded. The opposition, too, is the more singular, as, according

to the best information, it never was agitated in the Council of this city, and has hardly the sanction of any Council in Scotland, while it is to be supported out of the public purse with the very money of thousands, whose ardent inclination and interest it is calculated to obstruct.

This is an object which on the present occasion ought by no means to escape us, and the prostitution of public money to a purpose so unworthy should be most solemnly protested against.

The decent and manly exertions of the different committees and their constituents are alone capable of securing to them the few privileges which they at present possess, and these honest exertions will entitle them to reclaim rights which they have already been too long deprived of.

As a spur to our activity it were well to recollect that, wherever a struggle has taken place between any body of people and those who for any space of time have engrossed their unalienable and just rights, and the contest has been given up either through the indolence or inattention of the people, that people have always become in a much greater degree the objects whereon to exercise extreme of tyranny in their rulers.

We are, Gentlemen, with much respect,
Your obedient Servants,
(Signed) PATRICK BARRON, President.
(„) JOHN EWAN, Secretary.

To the Committee of Burgesses.

MEETING OF BURGESSES IN THE MICHAELMAS HEAD COURT AT ABERDEEN, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1784.

Provost Young having expressed an inclination the preceding day to see the resolutions framed by the Committee, four gentlemen of that body waited upon him at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, having sent a card to that effect on the Monday night. He read the whole with great deliberation; and said some of them were very reasonable, others, in his opinion, tended too much to cramp the powers of the Council, and one of them, respecting the resolution of last Convention to oppose the reform, he thought particularly exceptionable; adding he knew of no resolution on that head for issuing money, the resolution only expressing an intention to oppose any change in the present system. The gentlemen then informed Provost Young that, as the Committee had much respect for his Lordship, both in his public and private capacity, it was the intention to vote him as President of the Court, which would be a ceremony easily gone through, he being constitutionally convener of the meeting, and would, of course, take his

seat on the bench. To this the Provost objected, saying he should certainly sit there as preses of the meeting without an appointment of Court. Mr. Patrick Barron, Woodside, said it was a question of privilege inherent in the Court, which he could not yield, but the matter should be made very easy and then retired.

A full meeting of Burgesses of Head Court to reclaim rights which had of late been unexercised excited no small share of public curiosity. The Court Room was filled with Burgesses before the clock struck twelve, and at that hour the Committee came into Court in a body, and took their seats together. Soon after, the Magistrates with their attendants appeared. The business commenced by the Provost from the bench asking the Town Drummer if he had summoned the Burgesses to attend on this Court and hear the accounts read, which was answered that he had repeatedly done so during the course of some days past. A motion was then made by some of the burgesses to choose a preses, and Provost Young being named, a general approbation ensued. The Provost told them he sat in virtue of his office, and would decline the honour of being elected. His Lordship then observed that the business of the Court was, as he had already said, to hear the accounts read, and he accordingly directed the Clerk immediately to read them.

Mr. Barron at this instant rose and begged his Lordship's and the Council's indulgence for a few moments. He was happy, he said, to see to-day such a number of respectable burgesses and citizens assembled in consequence of a Notification of the Magistrates and Council for holding the Michaelmas Head Court. He hoped they had come with the best intentions towards the public good of the burgh. This Court was vested with very ample privileges, though not generally understood, and that, he presumed, was owing to the burgesses themselves in not more frequently attending. The business of the day would be very important, and he hoped would be conducted with becoming decency and order. By the confined mode of electing Magistrates and Council, the business of the town and management of the funds had been very much kept a secret from the burgesses in general. Upon the reports that the revenue was in a very embarrassed state, a general meeting of the burgesses had been called, and a committee appointed to examine the public accounts. They had done so as far as the time would permit, and on this examination some resolutions had been formed which, he hoped, would merit the consideration of the Council and every burgess present, and he entreated the indulgence of having the sense of the meeting taken upon them.

The Provost replied to Mr. Barron, by saying he had already explained himself on that head by stating the ordinary and only business of the Court, that what was proposed was an innovation—all

innovations were dangerous—and from his Lordship and the Council there was a general call to read the accounts. Sone of the gentlemen of the Committee entreated the Clerk would not proceed, and a general call of "Stop, stop, stop," followed from every quarter of the room. One of the Magistrates called out that one gentleman had raised his hand, which he considered as a threat, and hoped, addressing himself to the Committee, that it was not the intention of the burgesses to countenance him, and insisted on his being taken notice of.

Mr. Ewan immediately replied—My Lord Provost, I trust your Lordship will readily acquit any burgess of a direct intention to disturb the business of this meeting. The present circumstance is only casual, and does not merit further notice ; but I take this opportunity of declaring that so far as any-one connected with us disposed to countenance anything that is in the smallest degree disorderly, that we are determined to unite with the Magistrates and Council in support of their authority, and shall be ready to move for the commitment of any one who shall dare to interrupt the quiet of the Court.

The Provost then directed the accounts to be read, which drew up Mr. Ewan again. He said it was not the intention of the burgesses to prevent the accounts being read. If the business, which they conceived it their duty to lay before the Court, was either done before or after reading the accounts, it was immaterial. He therefore moved a compromise of the matter :—"We will readily agree to the accounts being read, but permit us to have these resolutions put afterwards. They are immediately connected with the business of revenue and expenditure, and will very naturally follow the reading of the accounts." In support of the resolution several gentlemen joined. Provost Young declared against all compromise. Any other business than that of reading the accounts was an innovation, and if the burgesses thought themselves injured the law was open.

Mr. Cheyne said either the burgesses did or did not form the Court. As they unquestionably did, their sentiments ought to be taken on the points in question, and desired that the burgess roll should be read.

The Provost again insisted that the only business of the Court was to read the accounts, nor would he listen to any other. The Magistrates again called to read the accounts, to which Mr. Patrick Barron replied that he very much disapproved of this arbitrary mode of proceeding, and expressed repeatedly, with strong emphasis, that it was using the burgesses in a way extremely unbecoming. He had many objections to these accounts, and, in the course of their being read, he objected to them severally, and finally took a protest against the accounts passing, as the burgesses' roll was not read, nor the sense of the burgesses taken on the proceedings of the day, and that the burgesses were invaded in their privileges as burgesses and constitutional members of that Court.

A very numerous and respectable body of the incorporated Trades were present, to join with their brethren of the Guildry in support of the resolutions, the outlines of which they had heard read, and approved of, the preceeding day.

Mr. Ewan said that, as a burgess and member of the Court, he must still insist that the roll should be read, and the sense of the meeting taken upon the business which had been before them, as well as what he hoped would now be brought forward.

Provost Young said the business was already finished, and the Magistrates and Council retired.

The burgesses, however, still remained, and the Committee were called upon to produce the resolutions. Mr. Barron was unanimously requested to take his seat upon the bench, and Mr. Ewan to read the resolutions. Mr. Barron congratulated the meeting upon the decency of behaviour which so eminently appeared during a very trying period, when their rights were most grossly invaded.

The motions in the form of resolutions were then introduced by Mr. Ewan. These resolutions were twelve in number. We shall quote No. 9 only :—"That the revenue of the shore arising from doubled dues, imposed upon trade by an Act of Parliament passed in 1773, is paid by the Burgesses entirely, except in such cases, which are comparatively small, where they are paid by strangers and others not free of this town ; that besides building the new pier, the Magistrates and Council are obliged by Act of Parliament—'To apply the rates and duties in improving and repairing the said harbour, and in keeping the same in good order and repair, and in preserving the said harbour clean and free from sand, shingle, mud, and dirt, and other obstructions whatever.'" That notwithstanding this positive obligation, the said harbour has been very much neglected, and the whole course from the sand ness to the old Quay very much obstructed with stones, sand, mud, and shingle ; that no ballast lighter has ever been employed upon it, nor any means used to clean or deepen the course of the burn in which the shipping passed to the old Quay aforesaid ; that the pauls and other securities for vessels are, many of them broken, and much out of repair, as well as that many more capstans are wanting, and the greater part of those already furnished have been suffered to go out of repair ; that notwithstanding of these objects of so much consequence to the safety of shipping and convenience of those on whom the duties bear so hard, a large sum of money, amounting to upwards of £1,200 sterling, arising from this revenue, has been applied in building batteries, a purpose not expressed in the Act, to the great prejudice of those on whom the duties fall (although the Burgesses would have liberally contributed to whatever appeared to them as necessary, had they on that occasion been constitutionally called on).

"Resolved, therefore, that in future these circumstances of so much necessity and public utility be attended to, and that the fund be managed with the strictest economy, that the debt may be, in a period as short as possible, extinguished; and that this heavy tax may not be entailed for a longer time than is absolutely necessary on the Burgesses and their posterity."

From "Proceedings of the Burgesses of Aberdeen, in examining the Public Accounts, in the Annual Head Court, Sept., 1784, *&c., published by the Committee of Burgesses at Aberdeen*, 1785."

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EXTRACT FROM DEED OF SETTLEMENT EXECUTED BY PATRICK BARRON OF WOODSIDE, IN 1798.

As also all and whole these tenements of Inland and Backland, with the houses, gardens, and others thereto belonging, lying on the south side of the Castle Street of Aberdeen, as presently possessed by James Thomson and the Commercial Banking Company in Aberdeen, Alexander Thain, advocate there, John Ewen, merchant there, Professor James Beattie, and me, the said Patrick Barron, . . . and, further, my just and equal share of all and whole these tenements of land back and fore, with the houses built thereon, lying on the west side of the Gallowgate of Aberdeen, which partly belong to me and certain other partners of the company carried on under the firm of Charles Baird & Company, and partly to Thomas Kilgour of Nether Kinmundy, and me, the said Patrick Barron; and, further, all and whole my share in the company trade carried on under the firm of Gordon, Barron, & Co., merchants in Aberdeen, and my whole share and interest in the Banking Company in Aberdeen, with the profits and emoluments of said shares, and all I have or can pretend thereto, or to said heritable subjects or any part thereof. Declaring that these presents are granted by me in favour of the said Patrick Kilgour, under and upon the express condition that he shall be bound to pay my funeral expenses and all my just and lawful debts, and also the following legacies, annuities, and sums of money, to the persons, aftermentioned, viz.:—To Patrick Milne, Esq. of Crimonmogate, £500 sterling; to Alexander Milne, Esq., merchant in Aberdeen, brother of the said Patrick Milne, the like sum of £500 sterling; to John Gordon, Esq. of Murtle, merchant in Aberdeen, £500 sterling; to the said Thomas Kilgour, in Nether Kinmundy, £500 sterling; to Robert Kilgour, in Nether Kinmundy, £500 sterling; to William Kilgour, of London, brother of said Robert Kilgour, £500 sterling; to George

Kilgour, of London, also brother of said Robert Kilgour, £500 sterling; to Ann Kilgour, widow of the late Alexander Robertson, of Grenada, in life rent, for her life rent use only, and to her lawful children, procreated or to be procreated, and equally and proportionally in fee the like sum of £500 sterling; to John Ewen, merchant in Aberdeen, the sum of £50 sterling; to Miss Betty Forbes, late milliner in Aberdeen, £20 sterling, as a mark of my esteem for her; to each of the children of Joseph Simpson, merchant in Aberdeen, procreate betwixt him and the deceased Frances Burnett, his spouse, £50 sterling; to the Treasurer of the Infirmary of Aberdeen, for the use and behoof thereof, the sum of £50 sterling; to the Treasurer of the Charity Workhouse of Aberdeen, for the use, &c., &c., £50 sterling; to the Treasurer of the Lunatic Hospital of Aberdeen, if the same is erected within three years after my death, the sum of £25 sterling, all which legacies shall be payable at the first term of Whitsunday or Martinmas, which shall happen twelve months after my decease, with interest thereafter till paid; and, further, that the said Patrick Kilgour, my disponee, shall be bound to pay the following annuities to the persons after named yearly during their respective lifetime, viz.:—To James Sharp, mariner, and his mother, Isabel Cameron, the sum of £50 sterling annually; item to Mary Sharp, spouse to Peter Craig, tinsmith, late in Aberdeen, now in Perth, the sum of £10 sterling annually; and to Elizabeth Kilgour, spouse to Thomas Sangster, dyer, the sum of £10 sterling annually; to Elspet Allan, widow of the deceased —— Young, lately residing in Aberdeen, £10 sterling yearly; to Jane Allan, widow of the deceased —— Thomson, lately residing in Aberdeen, £10 sterling yearly; to Sophia Begg, my housekeeper, £25 sterling yearly; and to Jane Duncan, my maid-servant, £10 sterling yearly; to Patrick Barron, son of Elizabeth Skene, £10 sterling yearly, &c. &c. . . . .

It is my will, and I desire you that on sight hereof ye pass to the ground of the said lands of Old Cruives or Woodside, and there give and deliver to the said Patrick Kilgour and his foresaids heritable state and sasine real actual and corporeal possession of all and whole the said Town and Lands of Old Cruives, now called Woodside, with the parts and pendicles thereof lying as aforesaid, by gift and delivery to him or them, or the certain procurator or attorney bearer, hereof of earth and stone of the ground of said lands and all other usual symbols, to be holden in manner foresaid, and that ye duly and lawfully infeft the said Patrick Kilgour in the premises conform to the tenor of the foregoing disposition, and this precept in all points, and this in noways ye leave undone, which to do I commit to you and each of you my Bailies for said full power by this my precept. In witness I have subscribed these presents, consisting of this and the seven pre-

ceding pages (all wrote on the two sheets of paper legally stamped) by Patrick Barron, apprentice to Hugh Hutcheon, Advocate in Aberdeen.

At Aberdeen, the 26th day of December, 1798 years, before witnesses—Sir Alexander Bannerman, physician in Aberdeen, Alexander Moir of Scotstown, and the said Patrick Barron and Hugh Hutcheon, witnesses to my subscribing the marginal note on the 5th page hereof witnessed and signed as the body.

(Signed) PATRICK BARRON.

Alexr. Bannerman, witness; Alexr. Moir, witness; Hugh Hutcheon, witness; Patrick Barron, witness.

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BOUNDARY OF THE BURGH OF WOODSIDE.

(First.)—Bounded on the South partly by the Mortar Hole Road, and partly by Cotton Lodge Walk, said boundary commencing at that part of the Mortar Hole Road where it crosses the Great North of Scotland Railway at the March Stone, marked "W 1," and extending along said Road till it comes to the Inverurie Turnpike Road, running across said Turnpike Road to a March Stone marked "W 2," and extending therefrom along said Cotton Lodge Walk till it comes to the Old Inverurie or Hilton Road, at the March Stone marked "W 3." (Secondly)—Bounded on the South-west partly by the Old Inverurie or Hilton Road, running from the last-mentioned March Stone West-ward along said Road to the March Stone marked "W 4," placed at the point where the said Road terminates, being eighty-eight yards or thereby West of Persley Street, then turning Southward from said March Stone along the Hilton Bank Road, a distance of thirty-two yards or thereby, to the March Stone marked "W 5," placed at the line of the March Dyke between the Lands of Woodside and Hilton, then running from said March Stone Westward along said March Dyke in a straight line, a distance of six hundred and thirty yards or thereby, to Smithfield Road, and crossing said Road to the March Stone marked "W 6," then running along said March Dyke in another straight line, a distance of two hundred and twelve yards or thereby, in a South-westerly direction, till it comes to the March Stone marked "W 7," placed at the Haddagain Road, or Road leading towards the Lunatic Asylum, then running from said March Stone Southward, a distance of eleven yards or thereby, along said Road to the March Stone marked "W 8," placed on the line of the Hedge on the Lands of Middlefield, then turning from said March Stone in a Westerly direction along the line of said

Hedge, a distance of one hundred and sixty five yards or thereby, to the March Stone marked "W 9," placed in the line of the Dyke on the said Lands of Middlefield. (Thirdly)—Bounded on the West by a line of March running from said last-mentioned March Stone Northward along said Dyke, a distance of two hundred and eighty six yards or thereby, to the Inverurie Turnpike Road, at a point where a March Stone is placed marked "W 10," then running in an Easterly direction along said Turnpike Road, a distance of twenty-eight yards or thereby, to the March Stone marked "W 11," placed in the line of the Road leading across the Great North of Scotland Railway to Woodside House, and then turning from said March Stone Northward along said Road till it comes to the March Stone marked "W 12," placed at the said Railway Bridge. (Fourthly)—Bounded on the North by the said Great North of Scotland Railway, said Boundary running from said last-mentioned March Stone Eastward along said Railway, a distance of one mile and seven hundred and sixty yards or thereby, till it meets the point of commencement at the said March Stone marked "W 1," placed at the Mortar Hole Road.

BOUNDARY OF WOODSIDE QUOAD SACRA PARISH WITHIN THE QUOAD CIVILIA PARISH OF OLD MACHAR.—*From "Presbytery Records,"* 1834.

Beginning at Kittybrewster Toll, thence along the Roads which separate Ashgrove and Cornhill from Hilton and Cairncry to the Woodhill Road, along the Woodhill Road northward and westward to the boundary of the Parish of Newhills, along that boundary northward to the River Don, crossing the Don, taking in the Lands of Persley and that part of the Lands of Grandholm at present belonging to Mr. Hadden, westward and eastward to the extremity thereof, crossing the River again at the southern termination of the boundary road between Mr. Hadden's Grounds and the property of the Cruive Proprietors, thence in a direct line southward to the Boat-house on the Canal, and along the Canal Bank to Kittybrewster Toll, the point of commencement.

POPULATION OF WOODSIDE.

The population of Woodside about the year 1815, according to a Government Report, was 2000.

The following is from the Registrar-General's Report of Census, taken 4th April, 1881 :—

WOODSIDE PORTION OF ABERDEEN.

Separate Families	1211
Houses—Inhabited	1183
Uninhabited	44
Building	5
Population—Males, 2382 ; Females, 2841 ; total	5223
Rooms with one or more Windows	2688
Population in 1871—Males, 1932 ; Females, 2358 ; total	4290

The late Mr. James Valentine, in his "City of Aberdeen," says, no exact comparison can be made as to the population of Woodside within the present boundary at previous censuses and now. Assuming that the *Quoad Sacra* Parish had been the division for Woodside up to the formation of the Police Burgh, the population has been as follows for 40 years.

1841.	1851.	1861.	1871	1881.
4839	4225	3721	4815	5928

The Parish boundary includes Grandholm, but the Burgh boundary does not.

From Registrar-General's Report on 9th Decennial Census, vol. 1, taken 4th April, 1881 :—

NEWHILLS PARISH (10,282 Acres).

	1881.	1871.
Separate Families	1027	838
Houses—Inhabited	709	566
Uninhabited	25	26
Building	9	4
Population—Males	2711	2059
Female	2769	2151
Total	5480	4210
Persons Speaking Gaelic	4	—
Rooms with one or more Windows	3243	—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1881—Temporarily Absent	1	1	2
Temporarily Present	11	16	27

VILLAGES IN NEWHILLS PARISH.

	Auchmull Portion.	Buxburn Portion.	Sclattie Portion.	Entire Village.
Separate Families . . .	264	25	75	364
Houses—Inhabited . .	142	19	48	209
Uninhabited . .	4	1	2	7
Building . . .	2	—	5	7
Population—Males . .	639	41	171	851
Females . .	680	61	203	944
Total . .	1319	102	374	1795
Persons Speaking Gaelic .	3	—	—	3
Rooms with one or more Windows	666	92	212	970
Population in 1871—Males .	424	—	—	424
Females	494	—	—	494
Total .	918	—	—	918

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WEAVERS AND SPINNERS.

"Gordon, Barron, & Co. continue to give encouragement to journeymen weavers in manufacturing cotton goods of different kinds—light, easy, and profitable work to the weavers.

"Country weavers wishing to remove to the town will be assisted with money or looms by applying to James Ferguson at their Manufactory, Belmont Street, Aberdeen.

"They who have families will get employment for their wives and children.

"Young men from 16 to 25 years of age wanted as apprentices to the weaving and spinning."—*Aberdeen Journal, 11th October*, 1790.

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THE BANNERMAN FAMILY.

The Bannerman family having been so closely identified with Woodside from a very early period, perhaps a fuller account of the family should have been given in the text. The following, which is intended to supply the deficiency, is taken from the very scarce "Account of the Family of Bannerman of Elsick. Aberdeen, 1812." —pp. 26. Printed for private circulation :—

The founders of this family are to be traced in the remote ages of Scottish history, in common with those of other ancient families whose

surnames in general, took their rise from some peculiarity of local or official situation, or from some remarkable trait of character or personal qualification. This had its origin in the privilege held by the progenitors of the family of carrying the Royal Standard, or being, as the name indicates, Bannerman to our kings of old.

It is admitted by all our writers on genealogy, that the ancestors of the Bannermans enjoyed the honour of carrying the King's Standard in time of war. We are told they were hereditary banner-bearers, *Equites Vexillarii* (as it was termed), to our kings about the tenth and eleven centuries.

They were, in fact, KNIGHTS BANNERET, the most ancient and most honourable degree of knighthood, which was never conferred but upon persons of extraordinary merit and military renown. Whatever slur, therefore, might, justly or otherwise, have been cast upon one of the chiefs of this family in the days of Malcolm Caenmore, or of Alexander I., the conduct of his immediate progenitors, and that of the founders of the family, must have been highly distinguished.

In the reign of Malcolm III. (according to Boece and Buchanan), but, if we follow others, in the succeeding reign of Alexander I., the Bannermans lost the honour of carrying the standard. The cause is not clearly explained. For, although some directly ascribe it to the misconduct of the chief of the family of that day at the passage of the Spey, where the King gave it to Carron, the ancestor of the Scrymgeours, who had accompanied him on that expedition, to quell a rebellion in the northern part of the kingdom, others say that a principle of gratitude in the King to that brave and distinguished knight (Carron), who had twice actually saved his life (once in the field, and on another occasion when in more imminent danger at the Castle of Invergowrie), induced him to constitute Carron his standard bearer in time to come. Of this last there can be no doubt. But, whilst it is most readily admitted that the renowned ancestor of the constables of Dundee had every right to distinction and reward, it is by no means clear that the banner bearer of that age merited the indignity, on that occasion, to have his office taken from him.

At that early period, it is now impossible in matters of historical importance to get at precise facts ; in those comparatively so insignificant, it is in vain to look for them. The only account of this transaction that is to be found, is in the Scottish Histories of Fordun, Hector Boece, John Major, Buchanan, and of Leslie Bishop of Ross ; of these, the most respectable is undoubtedly that of Fordun, from whom all the others have probably taken theirs, with shades of difference, however, in the description . . . . But it is sufficient for the purpose of this account, that it admits of no doubt, that the Bannermans had a root as ancient and honourable as almost any family of

the lesser barons of Scotland. And it wlll appear in the sequel, if their posterity did not hold any great rank, or occupy offices of power under succeeding monarchs, that they yet were a family of respectability and consideration ; which is evident not only from the situations filled by their descendents in that part of the kingdom where they have long been settled, but also from their intermarriages with some of the oldest and most distinguished families in Scotland.

The first authentic record in which this name has yet been found, is a charter by David II:—

"*Delecto Medico nostro* DONALDO BANNERMAN *terrarum de Clyntreys et duarum Achronnies lie Watertown et lie Waltown, dated Apud Sconam* 21 *mo Junii Anno Regni*, 39*no*," A.D. 1368. And subsequently a Charter of Confirmation. "*Donationes quam Abbas et Conventus* de Kynloss, *fecit Donaldo Bannerman terræ suæe jacentes in vico furcarum. Burgi de Aberdeen ex occidentale parte ejusdem*, dated at Perth An. Regni 41mo." (Robertson's Index to Charters, pp. 35, 84, and 91.)

In 1382, Alexander Bannerman was Provost of Aberdeen. In 1387 he acquired the Lands of Elsick, in the barony of Cowie, and Sheriffdom of Kincardine, from Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, by charter from him, dated at Aberdeen, 4th October that year. In 1388 —This charter of Sir Alexander Fraser's is confirmed to the said Alexander Bannerman of Elsick by a Royal charter in his favour from Robert II., dated "*Apud Sconam die decimo nono Octobris, Anno Regina Nostri Decimo Septimo.*

Owing to the turbulence of succeeding times—the forfeiture or alienation of lands—and consequent loss of charters and other family papers, there have not any documents been found to trace the immediate line of the family. It is chiefly from its intermarriages, taken from genealogical records, that it can now be followed.

In 1452, the following witnesses appear to a Charter of Confirmation granted by James II., in favour of Hugh Calder of Aswanley (ancestor of the present Admiral Sir Robert Calder), confirming Sir Alexander Seton's conveyance of these lands to him, "viz., *Georgio Crichton de Blackness, Georgio Haliburton de* ——— *Bannerman de Elsick*, &c. From this it may be presumed that the chief of the family being then one of the *Equites Scuti* about the king's person was of some repute.

About this time Bannerman of Elsick appears to have acquired the lands of Balmakessie, and the lands of Auld Cruiffs, and others in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen and Wattertown, and Abbot Hill in the parish of Ellon, and henceforward they are occasionally designed "of Elsick" or "of Wattertown," until 1611, when this last estate

appears to have been conveyed by Alexander Bannerman, upon 27th May, to John Johnston of that Ilk, by whose son George (designed of "Caskieben") it is disponed, 20th June, 1616, to William Forbes of Tolquhon.

In 1512, Bannerman of Wattertown was Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeenshire, and in that year witnesses a charter by the Earl of Huntly to David de Strathbogie.

In 1539, Henry, a son of the last mentioned, had estates in Forfarshire. An apprysing appears to have been led in that year against his lands of Bryanton, Rind, and Pensfield, in that shire, by the Archbishop of St. Andrews.

In 1580, a daughter of Bannerman of Wattertown was married to Gordon of Lesmoir.

In 1586, Alexander Bannerman of Elsick married Elizabeth, daughter of Johnston of that Ilk, by whom he had his eldest son and heir, Alexander, who succeeded him, and Margaret, who, in 1608, was married to George Gordon, of Haddo, and became the mother of the brave but unfortunate Sir John Gordon, who for his loyalty to his king, and opposing the Covenanters, was by them (after the farce of a mock trial) most unjustly condemned and executed at Edinburgh, 10th July, 1644. Alexander Bannerman, her brother, the heir of the above marriage, was married first to Margaret, daughter of Forbes of Tolquhon, and secondly to Marjory, daughter of Sir John Leslie of Wardes, and he left issue by both marriages. His second wife survived him, and married Sir John Fletcher, King's Advocate.

In May, 1663, Alexander Bannerman, then designed younger of Elsick (eldest son of the last-mentioned Alexander, by his marriage with Margaret Forbes, who appears to have been then alive), was married to Marion Hamilton, eldest lawful daughter to Alexander Hamilton of East Binning, and grand-daughter to the Earl of Abercorn. His father, Alexander Bannerman, elder of Elsick, is a party to the son's contract of marriage with Miss Hamilton. . . . . .

Upon some quarrel with his cousin, Sir John Gordon of Haddo, this Alexander Bannerman and he (according to Spalding's History) met to decide it in single combat on the hill of Tillygreig, on the 4th April, 1644, where, as Spalding expresses it, "they fought for the first blood, whilk Haddo lost, and Elsick was victor, and so they parted."

Of the marriage with Marion Hamilton there were four sons and four daughters. Alexander, the eldest son, succeeded his father, and was created a baronet by Charles II., 28th December, 1682.

His eldest son, Alexander, the second baronet, married Isabella, daughter of Sir Alexander Macdonald of Slait, and left one son, Alexander, who married Isabella, daughter of Trotter of Harsley, in the county of York, and by her left two sons and one daughter, Alex-

ander, his eldest son, who, upon the death of his father in 1747, succeeded as the fourth baronet. In 1756, he sold the lands of Elsick (which had descended from father to son in the family since October, 1387) to the Magistrates and Town Council of Aberdeen for behoof of the community, by whom they were soon after parcelled out in several lots.

Upon the death of the last Sir Alexander Bannerman, without male issue, he was succeeded in the title of baronet by his brother, Edward Trotter Bannerman ; and he, having died unmarried in 1796, was succeeded in the baronetage by the present Sir Alexander Bannerman as heir male, and of line of Patrick Bannerman, his grandfather, who was third son of the first Sir Alexander Bannerman. This Patrick Bannerman was born in 1678, and in 1714 was married to Margaret, daughter of Sir Charles Maitland of Pitrichie, by his wife, Dame Jean Forbes. Like his ancestors, he was a firm adherent to the Stuart family, and was by a poll of his townsmen chosen Provost of the town of Aberdeen, on the attempt of the son of James VII., in 1715, when, on presenting an address to him at Fetteresso from the town, "on his arrival in his ancient Kingdom of Scotland," he was knighted. For this conduct he was afterwards carried prisoner to Carlisle, and made a narrow escape with his life. He died in 1733, and left two sons and three daughters.

1st.—Alexander Bannerman, merchant in Aberdeen, his eldest son, was born in 1715, and died 1782. In 1737, he married Margaret, eldest daughter of Thomas Burnet of Kirkhill.

2nd.—Charles, writer to the Signet, died unmarried in Edinburgh, in 1748.

3rd and 4th.—Clementina and Jean died unmarried.

5th.—Margaret, the youngest daughter, was married to Alexander Milne, merchant in Aberdeen (afterwards of Crimonmogate) by whom she left two sons, Patrick Milne of Crimonmogate, and Alexander Milne, merchant and manufacturer in Aberdeen, who died in Edinburgh, in May, 1800.

The above and last mentioned Alexander Bannerman was survived by three sons.

1st.—Alexander, his eldest son, M.D. and Professor of Medicine in the King's College and University of Aberdeen, the sixth baronet, and lineally descended of his namesake who acquired the lands of Elsick in 1387, was born 22nd December, 1741, and, in 1768, married Mary, daughter of James Gordon of Banchory. By his second wife, Mary, daughter of —— Buchan of Auchmacoy, he had four sons and one daughter :—(1) Alexander, married to Rachel, daughter of John Irvine of Auchmunziell ; (2) James, M.D., married to Helen, daughter of Alexander Burnet of Kemnay ; (3) Charles, merchant and manufacturer in Aberdeen ; (4) Edward John, in the military service of the East India

Company ; and (5) Mary, who was married, in 1793, to William, then Lord Inverury, now Earl of Kintore, by whom she has three sons and one daughter—(1) Anthony, now Lord Inverury ; (2) Alexander Keith ; (3) William Keith ; (4) Mary Keith.

2nd.—Thomas Bannerman, merchant in Aberdeen, second son of Alexander Bannerman and Margaret Burnet, in 1779 married Jane, daughter of George Simpson, of Hazlehead, by whom he has surviving, three sons and two daughters, viz., Alexander, Patrick, and Thomas : Euphemia, his eldest daughter, married to Thomas Cecil Granger of Cuckfield, in the county of Sussex, and has a family ; and Margaret, married to Thomas Best, of the island of Barbadoes, by whom she has one son.

3rd.—Charles Bannerman, advocate in Aberdeen, third son of Alexander Bannerman and Margaret Burnet, in 1785 married Margaret, daughter of Patrick Wilson, sometime collector of the customs in the island of St. Christophers, ninth son of George Wilson of Finzeauch, by whom he has surviving, five sons and six daughters, viz., Alexander, Patrick, Charles, George, and Thomas, and Catherine, Margaret, Ann, Mary, Georgina, and Elizabeth Ogilvie.

NOTE.

Following up the foregoing account of the Bannerman family—Sir Alexander Bannerman, M.D., the sixth baronet, died in 1814, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander, who died in 1840. He was succeeded by his brother Charles, the eighth baronet, who married his cousin, Ann, daughter of Charles Bannerman, advocate, youngest brother of the sixth baronet. Sir Charles was succeeded by his son, Alexander, born 6th April, 1823, who died in 1877, and the title is now held by George, a son of Thomas Bannerman, nephew of Sir Alexander Bannerman, the sixth baronet. Sir George, the present and tenth baronet, was born 4th June, 1827, married 5th October, 1869, Ann Mary, eldest daughter of Richard Brooke, F.S.A., of Handfor, Cheshire, has a son born 16th December, 1871, and a daughter, Eleanor. The last mentioned Thomas Bannerman was born 3rd October, 1795, died 14th April, 1843, having married 22nd June, 1824, Jane, daughter of George Hogarth, Esq., Aberdeen, and had, besides Sir George the present baronet, five daughters :—(1) Jane, married 22nd August, 1855, to Major-General Millington Henry Synge, R.E. (Bart.) ; (2) Euphemia, unmarried ; (3) Margaret, unmarried ; (4) Elizabeth, died 6th February, 1877, having been married on 19th January, 1869, to Alexander Pirie Hogarth, Esq., Aberdeen ; (5) Thomasina, married 28th April, 1866, to Francis Logie Pirie, M.A., Balliol College, Oxon. Euphemia and Margaret are the only members of the Bannerman family now (1886) living in Aberdeen.

Sir Alexander Bannerman, Knight, eldest brother of the last mentioned Thomas Bannerman, born 8th October, 1788, was a merchant in Aberdeen, and M.P. for the city from 1832 to 1847, was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Prince Edward's Island in 1851, on which occasion he was knighted; Governor of Bahamas, 1854 to 1857, and lastly of Newfoundland, 1857 to 1864. Died 30th December, 1864.

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NEW FOUNDRY AT THE PRINTFIELD, WOODSIDE.

"Gordon, Barron, & Co. having found it necessary to establish a Foundry for the convenience of their works at Woodside, and having completed the same on an extensive scale, beg to inform the public that they are now ready to furnish every sort of Cast-Iron Work and machinery on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms. As their new machinery requires such nicety and exactness, they have engaged an experienced founder from one of the first foundries in England, and from specimens already seen they can confidently assert that the work executed at their foundry will be found inferior to none in the country.

"Arrangements are making for casting brass which will be completed in a short time."—*Aberdeen Chronicle, 8th July*, 1826.

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JOHN BARKER & SONS.

At page 73 it ought to have been mentioned that when John Barker and Sons left the Buxburn Mill in 1846, they took over and carried on for nine years the Wool Mill at Gordon's Mills, which formerly belonged to William Pirie & Co. At this mill, the Messrs. Barker were the first in Scotland to introduce the power-loom in the making of winceys, which fabric they manufactured on an extensive scale, and in almost every variety of pattern. They also made superior kerseys and tweeds, spun fingering worsted and wheeling yarn, and were the first to introduce fancy coloured merino worsted in imitation of Berlin, as also fancy coloured petticoat wools for sofa blankets, and such like. They manufactured Brussels carpeting, and two and three ply super carpetings, hearth-rugs, railway wraps, brace and shoe web, and carried on a large business in the stocking trade.

Mr. Alexander Cooper Barker, Chapel Street, was a member of this firm. Mr. Barker, who is a native of Woodside, is a gentleman of refined tastes, a *connoisseur* and patron of the fine arts, and possesses a large collection of paintings. A few years ago he published a small book of rhymes.

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PETITION OF ALEXANDER RAE AND OTHERS, MANAGERS OF WOODSIDE CHAPEL, TO THE HON. THE SHERIFF OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

December 27, 1843.

Unto the Honourable the Sheriff of Aberdeen :

The Petition of Alexander Rae, Merchant in Woodside ; Irvine Kempt, Blacksmith, Woodside ; Gerard Byrne, Manufacturer, Grandholm James Cruickshank, Merchant, Woodside : Alexander Craig, Manufacturer, Gordon's Mills ; Alexander Michie, Schoolmaster, Woodside ; John Michie, Tinsmith there ; James Bisset, residing there ; Thomas Hector, Merchant, there ; Alexander Troup, Grain Merchant, Mill of Sclattie ; and William Marr, Wood Merchant in Craibston, eleven of the twelve surviving or Acting Managers of Woodside Chapel, in the Parish of Oldmachar ;

Humbly Sheweth

That the Petitioners, along with John Wight, Baker in Cotton, are the surviving or acting persons who were at last election, in 1839, appointed Managers of said Chapel. That, in terms of the Constitution of said Chapel, dated in June, 1829, the feudal rights thereof are appointed to be granted and held by the Managers in trust for the congregation, which rights were declared to be "transferable from said Managers to others duly elected by the congregation at the lapse of ten years after the Chapel was constituted, who should take the burden of the debt of the said chapel upon them." And it is therein farther provided that the rights of the said property shall, in all time thereafter, be in the Managers, under the obligations imposed by the said Constitution, and in trust for behoof of the congregation of said Chapel until the debt be paid off, when the Chapel shall be vested in the Presbytery of Aberdeen, to be held by them in trust and for behoof of the congregation as above.

That funds to a considerable extent were borrowed to defray the expense of building the said Chapel ; and the sums so borrowed were paid partly by means of new loans effected by the Managers, and partly by the surplus income from seat rents and otherwise. That the debt still remaining due is about £1200 sterling, for which the Petitioners, as Managers and as individuals, granted bills to the respective Creditors.

That, in the month of May last, the Rev. Robert Forbes, Minister

of the said Chapel, renounced all connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, and nearly the whole members of congregation followed his example. That the Petitioners also left the Established Church on that occasion, and are no longer members thereof; and all these parties have ceased to meet in said Chapel for public worship. That the said Reverend Robert Forbes, and the great majority of the congregation who have left said Chapel, having resolved to subject themselves no longer to the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland, as by law established, and her different judicators, or to claim its privileges or any privileges arising to them under said Constitution; the object or use of the said Chapel of Ease, under said Constitution, has terminated, and the Constitution has been repudiated, or is no longer required by the congregation, for behoof of whom it was originally sought and granted. That the Petitioners, along with the said John Wight, in the month of June last, presented a petition to the Presbytery of Aberdeen, narrating the above facts, and intimating "their desire to be relieved and exonerated of the trust, and of all interest and concern in the said Chapel or Constitution, or debts and burdens affecting the same;" and also, intimating that "the Creditors of the Trust had applied for payment of the sums due to them by the Managers of the Chapel; to which application of the Creditors the Managers had replied that the only trust property they had was the Chapel and the ground on which it was built; and that they were willing to give over the said property to the Creditors, provided the steps were approved by the Presbytery, who have an eventual interest in the same." That the Petitioners, therefore, in said Petition, farther intimated to the Presbytery that they were quite "ready and willing to denude themselves of the said property, on being relieved of the said pecuniary obligations; and they will, under that condition, denude in favour of the members of the congregation who may continue to sit in said Chapel, under said Constitution, or under the like condition in favour of any new Trustees or Managers to be appointed in room of the Petitioners, or in favour of the Presbytery, as eventually interested in the Chapel and ground when the debt is paid off. That the Petitioners are not bound to continue longer as Trustees and Managers; and the mere fact of the Minister and great majority of the congregation having ceased to be subject to such jurisdiction, or to claim such privileges, is enough to justify the Petitioners in insisting for relief, as there is no congregation sufficient to produce an adequate revenue."

That the Petitioners, moreover, in allusion to a direction by the Presbytery to them to proceed to elect another Minister in room of Mr. Forbes, stated in said Petition that the election of another Pastor would add to the burdens, and that the smallness in number of the remanant congregation could afford no security for providing an

adequte provision for the Minister, if appointed ; and while the Petitioners intimated their "right to operate relief against the Chapel or otherwise, as accords of law, and without prejudice to any action of relief which they might be advised to bring," they concluded said Petition by requesting the Presbytery to appoint "intimation thereof to be made immediately to the remanant members of congregation from the pulpit of said Chapel on a Sunday, or in such other manner as may be deemed necessary—to relieve the Petitioners of the said Trust, and of the debts and obligations of said Chapel for which they are bound—to appoint new Managers in their place, under condition of their granting full relief to the Petitioners from all such debts and obligations on being denuded of said property ; and, failing thereof, to ordain the remanant members of said congregation to grant such relief, on being vested with the property of said Chapel, either in their own names or in Trustees for their behoof ; and in the event of such members refusing to give such relief, grant warrant and authority to the Petitioners to denude in favour of the Presbytery, under the burden of the Presbytery relieving them of said debts and obligations ; or to authorise the Petitioners to expose and sell at the highest price that can be obtained, by public roup, the said Chapel and the whole trust property belonging to the same, and apply the price in payment of said debts ; and, in the meantime, to delay any steps for settling a minister in said Chapel, unless on the understanding that the Petitioners shall not be subjected in any pecuniary consequences thereby ; or, finally, that the Presbytery will do otherwise in the premises as shall be just and equitable, reserving entire to the Petitioners the right to operate relief, if necessary, against the Chapel or otherwise, as accords of law in the Civil Court, if no instant redress be given by the Presbytery," as the said petition more fully bears.

That the Presbytery refused to take upon themselves the burden of the said debt, or to fix that burden on the members of congregation still continuing to meet in said Chapel for public worship, as connected with the Establishment, or to relieve the Petitioners in any shape ; but they intimated, on the 20th day of July last, in a Report approved of and issued as the determination of the Presbytery—"that there are various parties having a direct interest in the maintenance of the Chapel according to its original destination, and the Presbytery cannot sanction in any way an interference with these interests without at once making themselves liable for every damage which may be sustained. In fact, the Managers' Petition cannot competently be entertained by the Presbytery, as it relates entirely to civil matters, which can only be settled either amicably amongst all the parties themselves, or by judgment of the Civil Courts. The Presbytery, therefore, ought to leave the applicants to apply for their remedy elsewhere as they may be advised."

That, since the said intimation from the Presbytery, the Petitioners have continued in possession of the property of said Chapel and Title Deeds thereof; and have on Sabbath days given access to the members of the Established Church who still happen to frequent it for worship, as well as to such Minister as the Presbytery chose to order to officiate therein. That, with the view of appointing another Minister in said Church, sundry applications having been made to the Petitioners for seats in November last, the Petitioners then (as they had done previously) expressed their willingness to let seats to any party or parties who would undertake the burden of the debt, and relieve the Petitioners of the Trust and Management. That a meeting was called to ascertain the number of applications for seats, and it turned out that the income derivable for the half-year, from the number of sittings applied for, amounted only to £22; while the half-yearly burden of interest on debt, feu-duty, and other charges, exclusive of Minister's stipend, exceeded £54; and including the stipend, it would exceed £130. That the applicants for seats were, with few exceptions, persons who had not been previously members or seatholders in said Chapel; many of them resided in other parishes, or were Episcopalians, or of other religious persuasions, and all of them were countenanced or set forward by certain members of the Presbytery to embarass the Petitioners on this occasion. That these applicants for seats, when required to make it a condition of obtaining sittings that they would relieve the Petitioners of the existing debts and burdens, and all future debts, and of the management, refused to do so; and in these circumstances, with an utterly inadequate revenue, the Petitioners deemed it nowise incumbent on themselves to enter into new obligations with such parties, which might have compelled the Petitioners to continue the management and operation of a trust so manifestly ruinous to the Petitioners personally, and officially as Trustees. That, while the Petitioners were menaced by the persons above-mentioned on the one side, the Creditors who had claims on the Managers for the borrowed money already referred to, demanded payment of the sums due to them. In particular, a demand was made by Mr. James Edmond, advocate in Aberdeen, as agent for Mrs. Ferguson, a creditor for £400; and an action of constitution and payment and declarator was raised in the Court of Session for debts due to two other Creditors for £700, in which action the object is partly to secure at least the property of the Chapel in payment of the debt affecting the Managers and Trust.

That, in the knowledge of these proceedings, the Presbytery have, by a real or pretended Committee of their number, composed of the Reverend Robert Smith, James Forsyth, Simon Mackintosh, and the said James Edmond, sent written notice to the Petitioners, of date the 26th December current, that a meeting of the said Committee and of

the Congregation is to be held, in the said Chapel, on the evening of Wednesday, the 27th day of December current, for the purpose of forwarding the election of a Minister by the congregation, and requesting delivery of the keys of the Chapel—all in terms, as said Committee allege, of powers conferred on them by a resolution of said Presbytery.

That the Petitioners' secession from the Established Church—the secession of the heavy mass of the congregation—the diminished state of the revenue—the existence of a heavy debt, for which no guarantee of relief or payment has been offered to the Petitioners by the Presbytery or any other persons—are facts in the knowledge of the Presbytery, which mark their present proceedings as in *pessima fide*. That, apart from the *moral* injustice of attempting to refuse relief to the Petitioners from debts of a Trust, for the continuance of which there is no palpable necessity, or, if necessary, in which the Petitioners are no longer interested, the injustice is alike glaring in a *legal* point of view, when the Presbytery, under pretended powers of jurisdiction and of an eventual interest in the said Chapel, attempt to coerce the Petitioners to continue the operation of the Trust with a revenue of £22, in the face of a present debt so great, and with the certainty of creating an annual burden so much more, without providing the least means for meeting these burdens.

That the Petitioners, as Managers, are still willing to denude of the said property and management, on condition of their being relieved of their duties and responsibilities. That the Presbytery, by forcing upon the Petitioners any settlement of a Minister will create additional pecuniary responsibilities on them, unless they are relieved; and it is utterly unjust and illegal in the Presbytery to affect the patrimonial and pecuniary rights and interests of the Petitioners, by such proceedings, in their own name, or in name of the said John Wight (the only Manager who continues a member of said Chapel or Established Church), or in the name of any members of the said Chapel or congregation. That the said John Wight is not entitled, by any act or deed of his own, to create responsibilities on the Petitioners.

That the threatened proceedings for the election of a Minister for said Chapel are incompetent and illegal, and calculated to injure the Petitioners as Managers and individually, and as the same involve questions of a pecuniary nature, deeply affecting their rights and interests, the present petition to your Lordship has become necessary.

May it therefore please your Lordship to consider this Petition, and appoint the same to be intimated to the Reverend Robert Smith, Minister of the Parish of Oldmachar; the Reverend Patrick Forbes, Minister of the second charge thereof; the Reverend George Morrison, Minister of Banchory-Devenick;

the Reverend Adam Corbet, minister of Drumoak; the Reverend Robert Copland, Minister of Durris; the Reverend William Robinson Pirie, Minister of Dyce; the Reverend John Leslie, Minister of Fintray; the Reverend Robert Fiddes, Minister of Kinellar; the Reverend John Bower, Minister of Maryculter; the Reverend James Allan, Minister of Newhills; the Reverend Alexander Allan, Minister of Newmachar; the Reverend George Mackenzie, Minister of Skene; the Reverend Simon Mackintosh, Minister of the East Parish, Aberdeen; the Reverend John Wilson, Minister of the North Parish, Aberdeen; the Reverend James Forsyth, Minister of the West Parish, Aberdeen; the Reverend Thomas Dewar, Minister of the South Parish, Aberdeen; the Reverend James Newlands, Minister of Saint Clement's Parish, Aberdeen; the Reverend William Thomson, Minister of Belhelvie; the Reverend Robert Fairweather, Minister of Nigg; the Reverend Thomas Barclay, Minister of Peterculter; and also the said James Edmond and John Wight; and, with or without answers, to interdict, prohibit, and discharge the said Presbytery, collectively or individually, and the said James Edmond and John Wight, from calling or holding any meetings of themselves, or with any other persons, real or pretended members of said congregation, or with any sitters or applicants for seats in said Chapel, for the purpose of resolving upon or carrying into effect the nomination or settlement of any Minister in said Chapel; and to interdict, prohibit, and discharge the said Presbytery and members thereof, and the said John Wight, from electing or appointing any such Minister, or sanctioning the election by others; and also, to interdict, prohibit, and discharge the said Presbytery and members thereof from inducting or settling any minister in said Chapel, so elected or appointed; so long as the Petitioners continue liable for and unrelieved of the management of said Trust, and of the debts and burdens presently standing against them as Managers foresaid, or against the Chapel and other trust property held by them as such, and in respect of which the said debts were contracted; and also of such other burdens as may be created by the appointment of any successor to the said Reverend Robert Forbes. Also, to find the said Members of Presbytery, and the said James Edmond and John Wight, conjunctly and severally, liable to the Petitioners in the expense of this application and procedure to follow hereon, or to do otherwise in the premises as to your Lordship may appear reasonable. According to Justice, &c.

Drawn by

(Signed) JOHN DUNCAN,
For Petitioners.

ABERDEEN, 27th December, 1843.—Appoints the foregoing petition to be intimated to the said Robert Smith, Patrick Forbes, George Morrison, Adam Corbet, Robert Copland, William Robinson Pirie, John Leslie, Robert Fiddes, John Bower, James Allan, Alexander Allan, George Mackenzie, Simon Mackintosh, John Wilson, James Forsyth, Thomas Dewar, James Newlands, William Thomson, Robert Fairweather, Thomas Barclay, the said James Edmond, and John Wight, and them to lodge answers thereto, if they any have, with the Clerk of Court, within six free days after service, with certification.

(Signed) W. WATSON.

The negotiations connected with this case resulted in the return of the Free Church congregation to the building, January, 1845, taking over the debt.

The building which is now the Free Church Manse was erected in 1801, on a part of the Barn Park of Tanfield, some time occupied by the Misses Burnett and Andrew Cowie, measuring one-half acre, Scotch measure. The feu was granted on 29th June, 1801, by Alexander Shand, advocate, with consent of Barbara Shand, formerly Donald, his spouse, in favour of Robert Garden (Baillie Garden) and his spouse, Mary Garden. The Manse was purchased by the Woodside congregation about the year 1843.

"WOODSIDE.—On Tuesday, the 10th inst., the foundation-stone of the new church here, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, was laid in Masonic form by Alexander Hadden, Esq. of Persley."—*Aberdeen Journal, 18th February*, 1846.

Page 140.

"Office-houses for the Manse of Newhills, consisting of stable, byre, barn, and kiln-barn, are to be built as soon as weather will permit. Masons or wrights may apply to James Watson, advocate, Aberdeen." —*Aberdeen Journal, 25th March*, 1771.

This had likely been soon after the present Manse had been built.

Page 143.

"Kepplehills (Newhills) was feued on or before 1579 to William Forbes. A Commission was appointed the same year to visit the Marches. William Forbes was ordered by Head Court to be prosecuted before the Lords of Session for innovation on the Town's Commonty.

"The minister of Newhills pays yearly to the Town Council for Kepplehills a rent of £3 6s. 8d., and Kingswells pays yearly a rent of £2 4s. 5⅓d."—*From Town Council Records.*

Page 177.

"The creditors of the late JOHN BOYLE, bookseller in Aberdeen, are desired to give in exact notes of their claims, with affidavits on the verity thereof, to Hugh Fullerton, advocate, Aberdeen, betwixt and 1st April next, and, as a final arrangement of the affairs will take place soon thereafter, it is particularly requested that all concerned will pay attention to this intimation."—*Aberdeen Journal, 12th March,* 1806.

John Boyle had most likely died not long before the above date.

Besides other works, John Boyle published a series of the English Poets, 12mo, an edition esteemed.

Page 187.

Towards the close of the printing of this volume, George Davidson, son of Charles Davidson, the founder of the firm of Charles Davidson and Son, Mugiemoss, died 27th April, 1886, aged 75 years.

WOODSIDE COTTON WORKS.

The following is taken from an old weekly pay bill of Woodside Works, dated 1st August, 1818, which does not include the calico-printers :—

TWIST MILL.—Card Room, second floor, £15 17s. 9d.; do., fourth floor, £5 9s. 11½d.; Spinning Room, third floor, £15 0s. 9½d.; do., fourth floor, £10 6s. 10d.; Warping Room, £3 10s. 7d.; Sorting Room, £2 19s. 4½d. MULE MILL.—Card Room, low floor, £7 13s. 1d.; Thread Twisting, £10 0s. 11½d.; Card Room, second floor, £8 14s. 9d.; Spinning Room, second floor, £17 10s. 2½d.; Card Room, third floor, £9 18s. 1d.; Spinning Room, third floor, £13 15s. 10d.; Card Room, fourth floor, £9 11s. 10½d.; Spinning Room, fourth floor, £13 3s. 7d.; Long Wheels, low floor, £2 3s. 3d.; Card Room, fifth floor, £8 12s. 5d.; Spinning Room, fifth floor, £17 5s.; Card Room, sixth floor, £6 9s. 3½d; Spinning Room, sixth floor, £9 4s. 9½d.; Sorting Room, £9 0s. 1d.; Reeling Room, £13 11s. 8½d. Picking Account, £7 7s. 11½d.; Manufacturing Account, £5 18s. 10d.; Repairs, £5 6s. 2½d.; General Charges, £2 1s. 5d. Total, £230 14s. 7½d. Overseer's Weekly Wages, 12s.; Card Cleaners, 10s. 6d.; Female Workers, 4s. 9d. to 5s. 6d.

RENTAL OF KINGIS COLLEDGE OF ABERDEEN FROM MERTIMES 1637 TO MERTIMES 1638.

Southsyde of Done.

TEIND SILUER.

Deanrie.

Stonniewood,	£133	6	8
Sklaittiehill,	26	13	4
Cappillhilles,	9	0	0
Craibstoune,	10	0	0
Auchmull,	37	0	0
Croves haill,	7	0	0
Cottoune,	11	0	0
Gordonsmylne,	0	0	0
Kingswalls,	2	0	0

TEIND WICTUAL.

Crabistoun,	6 bolls	Meale.
Keppillhills,	5	,,
Sklaittie hail,	4	,,
Croves hail,	4	,,
Cottoun,	4	,,

South Donside.

TEINDS—1717 MICHAELMAS.

Stonywood,	£135	8	4
Fraser's half of Skletie,	27	3	4
Sandiland's half of Skletie,	13	13	4
Crabston and Tulloch,	14	0	0
Auchmull,	40	10	0
Kepillhills,	10	4	0
Crooves,	8	6	0
Cottoun,	12	9	0
Gordons Mill,	13	10	0
Caponston,	12	0	0
Kingswells,	6	13	4
Cassie-end,	5	0	0

From "*Selections from the Records of the University and King's College, Aberdeen.*"

BRITISH
16 JY 86
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ERRATA.

Page 158, line 16 from top, *for* "married to Margaret Chalmers, only daughter and heir of Dr. John Chalmers, Principal of King's College," *read* "married to Catherine Forbes, daughter of John Forbes of Boyndlie."

Margaret Chalmers was married to Archibald Scott of Usan.